

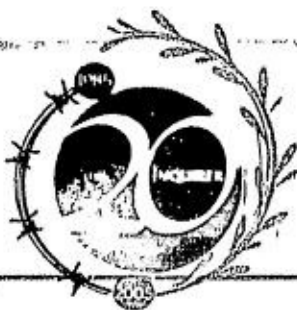


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**Court acquits suspects in actress' killing**

■ BUSINESS / B1

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■ LIFESTYLE / C4

**Miracle foods from the Bible**

■ WORLD / A8

**Tourist video shows full Bali horror**



## Miss International gets welcome fit for a queen

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

THE FAST-PACED LIFE IN THE COUNTRY'S financial district stopped while a reigning beauty queen graced its major avenues.

Statuesque on a float draped in lavender cloth and bedecked with white flowers, Miss

MISS INTERNATIONAL / A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Manila, Palace roll out red carpet for 3 boxing heroes

By Tina G. Santos

THE CITY OF MANILA OPENED ITS DOORS and rolled out the red carpet yesterday for three boxing champions led by Manny Pacquiao.

Red, white and blue confetti rained down as Pacquiao, together with Brian Vitoria and

METRO / A18



### BEAUTY AND THE CHAMPS

President Macapagal-Arroyo shares the glory with boxing champions Manny Pacquiao (third from left), Rey Bautista (left) and Brian Vitoria at the Kalayaan grounds in Malacañang Monday. At left, the President has a light moment with newly crowned 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman in the Music Room at the Palace.

EDWIN BACASMIAS

# Palace-Congress talks up

## AFP belies talk Rangers commander on way out

By Fe Zamora, Gil C. Cabacungan and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AS TALK OF A COUP D'ETAT ROSE a decibel higher in the rift between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Senate, speculation swirled around an idealistic general assigned at the capital's doorstep.

Officially, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim has not heard the Palace talk that he was being moved as head of the First Scout Ranger Regiment in San Miguel, Bulacan, to "a more neutral place."

"Not true," Lim told the INQUIRER. "I don't know anything about that but if there is such an order, it is all right."

Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also sought to knock down reports of growing restiveness among the troops.

"We will not be manipulated by groups who want to sow disorder within the military," Senga said at the start yesterday of the weeklong "Salute to the Filipino Soldier" orga-

AFP / A17



### WAR OF THE ILONGGOS

DRILON: Senate presidency is not for Malacañang to give.



DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO: My ignorant critics...

JESS YUSON

## Miriam goes ballistic, blasts foes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria

SWEEPING ASIDE OPPOSITION DEMANDS, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago refused yesterday to identify the source of her story about an alleged plot to oust or kill President Macapagal-Arroyo.

And if her critics wanted to present evidence to back her claim, Santiago said the only evidence would be Ms Arroyo's corpse, if the plot succeeded.

Wearing former President Corazon Aquino's signature yellow color, Santiago delivered her fiercest speech in many years, blasting Aquino's son Benigno III and three other congressmen for their "personal attacks" on her after she spoke about the supposed plot.

Santiago stood by her statement that Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon were behind a plot to remove Ms Arroyo by Oct. 15, either by a coup or by assassination.

The Aquino family and Drilon have both dismissed Santiago's claim as preposterous.

Santiago ignored Drilon's "Welcome" greeting when they met in the elevator taking them up to their Senate offices, before the former judge delivered her privilege speech.

Santiago claimed it was Susie Calvo-Sevilla, sister of Drilon's late first wife Vito Calvo, who had spoken about the plot

MIRIAM / A17

## GMA gag order questioned in Supreme Court

By TJ Burgonio and Leila B. Salaverria

TEN SENATORS YESTERDAY appealed to the country's three top leaders to sit down and avert a constitutional crisis after President Macapagal-Arroyo issued an order that put the executive and legislative branches on a collision course amid talk of martial law and a coup d'etat.

The appeal came as the opposition asked the Supreme Court to scrap Executive Order No. 464, which bars administration officials as well as police and military officers from testifying in Congress without Ms Arroyo's consent—a decree that critics said undermined corruption probes.

Ten senators, led by Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, signed a statement urging Ms Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia to thresh out their differences.

"To prevent a constitutional crisis and in consideration of the highest public interest, we would like to call on the leaderships of Malacañang, the Senate and the House of Representatives to conduct a dialogue," the

PALACE-CONGRESS / A17

## Gudani invokes right to remain silent

By Dona Pazzibugan

BRIG. GEN. FRANCISCO GUDANI and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan yesterday refused to answer military charges they had disobeyed President Macapagal-Arroyo's order not to appear before a Senate committee looking into allegations she had rigged last year's election.

The two Marine officers invoked their right to remain silent upon the advice of their lawyers during proceedings at the office of the Armed Forces Provost Marshal. The lawyers contended that no formal complaint had been filed against them.

Gudani and Balutan had been summoned to answer charges they had violated Article of War 65—disobeying a legal order from a superior officer.

"They were in effect trying to get information from the two military officers without complying with the procedure," said Napoleon Poblador, one of the three private lawyers for the two officers. He said his clients should be able to confront the complainants and witnesses against them.

"We decided to invoke the constitutional right to remain silent and to insist on a faithful compliance with the Articles of War before any investigation can proceed," said Poblador.

Gudani and Balutan testified Wednesday before the Senate committee on national defense and security about an alleged government conspiracy to cheat in Lanao del Sur, where they were assigned during the May 10,

GUDANI / A6



MARINE BRIG. GEN. Francisco Gudani (left) and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan report to the Office of the Provost Marshal in Camp Aguinaldo to face charges of disobeying a direct presidential order. JOAN BONDOC



## Stop circulating rumors, PNP chief appeals to texters

By Luige A. del Puerto

TEXT MESSAGES, BY THEMSELVES, may not bring down a government but they have certainly exasperated the chief of the Philippine National Police.

Yesterday, Director General Arturo Lomibao appealed to the public to stop circulating unfounded rumors through

STOP / A6



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/03/05

## Second FRONT PAGE

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|              |                   |                |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Bagui        | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas          | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao   | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu           | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laong        | Cloudy            | Tacloban       | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone   | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos    | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay     | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga      | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legaspi      | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan      | Cloudy with Rains | Davao          | Cloudy with Rains |

## Solon demands P20M from Dinky Muslims urged

SAYING HIS PARTY WAS EQUALLY maligned, Rep. Rodante Marcoleta now wants former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman to pay him P20 million in damages for insinuating he had endorsed the original impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo as a ploy to shield the Chief Executive from graver and more solidly grounded charges.

Besides, the Alagad party-list congressman said yesterday, he was also having a hard time convincing his constituents that the P1 in damages he had initially sought in his libel suit against Soliman was symbolic of the pricelessness of his honor and reputation.

"My partymates thought (I meant) our dignity was worth only one peso," he told the INQUIRER in a phone inter-

view. He said his supporters had kept calling him, demanding to know why he was asking for only P1.

"It was not just me who was maligned but the party. (Alagad) has its own name to protect," he said.

Marcoleta filed an amended libel complaint before Quezon City assistant prosecutor Dindo Ventura yesterday. Aside from increasing the amount in damages, he also filed additional annexes, mostly newspaper clippings reporting Soliman's allegedly libelous statements.

In the libel complaint, Marcoleta said Soliman, in an Aug. 30 press conference, linked him to alleged efforts by Malacañang to manipulate the impeachment proceedings by supporting an empty complaint.

Soliman had told reporters at that news conference that she was present at a conversation in which Ms Arroyo asked political adviser Gabriel Claudio to have someone endorse the impeachment complaint that lawyer Oliver Lozano had filed against her.

Soliman, who resigned from the Cabinet and has joined the campaign to force the President out of office, quoted Claudio as saying that he would call Marcoleta, who later did endorse the complaint. She said she realized the full import of the Lozano complaint when the House justice committee opted to throw out two other complaints filed by the opposition in favor of the Lozano complaint, which it subsequently also junked as "lacking in substance."

## not to resist antiterror law

By Volt Contreras

AN AMERICAN LAW PROFESSOR brought to Manila by the US Embassy yesterday asked Filipino Muslims not to fear and resist but instead to support proposed antiterrorist legislation as this would make it "easier to hold the government accountable" for any human rights violations in the war on terror.

"If the law doesn't exist at all, then investigators inevitably will just go around or outside the legal system," said Sara Sun Beale of the School of Law at Duke University in North Carolina. "Giving them legitimate means to go after terrorism (leaves them with) less incentive to use illegal, coercive means."

Beale made the remarks as members of Congress, impelled by the latest terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia, decided to expedite passage of a proposed antiterror bill, and the Department of Tourism announced it had beefed up security at tourist spots throughout the country.

## Go-signal from JdV

Although the House justice committee had yet to wrap up its preliminary work on the bill, Speaker Jose de Venecia gave the go-signal for the immediate tackling of the measure on the floor, saying it was one of the government's priorities.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the justice committee, said he would call his members to an executive session today to adopt the committee report on a consolidated measure seeking to give more teeth to President Macapagal-Arroyo's war against homegrown and transnational terrorists.

He said that the technical working group was now working double time to weave into the final report additional inputs from other sectors such as the academe.

"We have been trying to fast-track this measure considering that this is really needed by the country to fight terrorism," Datumanong said.

## Satur's caveat

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo warned that expediting the passage of the measure should not be the order of the day.

"We are all against terrorism, especially state terrorism. But we should not be rushed into approving a law that would spawn acts of terrorism that we could never imagine," said Ocampo.

The House and the Senate have been tackling several anti-terror bills over the last five years but controversial provisions, such as the definition of terrorism and provisions authorizing warrantless searches and seizures, have slowed down passage of the bills.

Accompanied by US Deputy Cultural Attache Rebekah Drame, Beale spoke at a forum organized by the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy titled "Issues and Trends in Terrorism Prosecution: A US Perspective." The audience included representatives from the Office of Muslim Affairs, UP Islamic Studies, Muslim Legal Assistance Foundation, and other Islamic scholars and leaders.

## 'Other tools'

"One of my concerns is that you if don't provide the restrictive investigative tools (for going after terrorism), the government will just resort to other tools," Beale said. "If you don't lay down the legal basis, then you have nothing to argue about."

She made the comments in reply to several Muslim lawyers who opposed the proposed new legislation for fear it would legalize abuses committed against Muslims who were invariably treated at the "usual suspects" in past bombings in various parts of the country.

Later in an INQUIRER interview, Beale explained that "if legal means are made available to achieve the government's objective, then it's easier to hold the government accountable and to make it use those means."

But while citing the advantage of having an anti-terror law, Beale said her analysis of the latest draft bills pending in both houses of Congress left her with several "concerns."

She found some provisions "too broad," for example, with respect to the punishable acts and the persons that shall be covered by anti-terror investigations.

One provision, she noted, created a new crime called "inciting to terrorism" and it pertains to "speeches, proclamations, writings, emblems, banners, and other representations tending to incite others to terrorism."

"But it's a whole different thing to be advocating a broad political position that might, through a long chain of events, cause acts that might possibly be defined as terrorism. I would want to see that (definition) tightened up," the professor added. With Michael Lim Ubac and Jerome Aning

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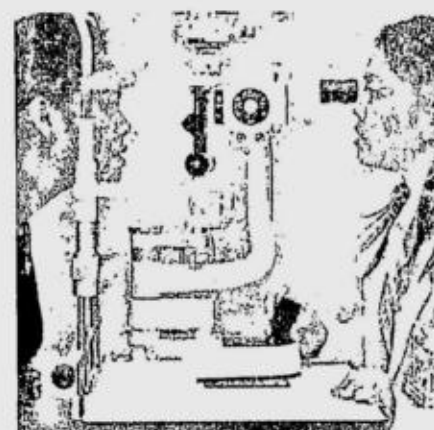
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# Solons: Palace doesn't have 'PCGG has right to sell Marcos assets' numbers to oust Drilon

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG MAY WANT TO, BUT IT doesn't have the numbers to oust Senate President Franklin Drilon, administration senators said yesterday.

Sen. Ralph Recto said he wouldn't be surprised if the Palace wanted to replace Drilon with a new Senate President whose policies would support the administration's.

There was one hitch though—neither Malacañang nor its allies in the Senate could muster the 13 votes to ease Drilon out of the Senate presidency at the moment.

"I don't think that they have the warm bodies at this point," Recto said. "As soon as they have the numbers, they will topple him."

He also doubted if Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. could produce the numbers even if they joined forces.

"That's always possible, but neither has the numbers at this point," he said when asked about the effect of a Santiago-Villar teamup.

Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavio Aguirre agreed: "No matter what permutations you make, they don't have the numbers." Besides, he added, Drilon enjoyed the support of at least 13 members of the 15-man administration bloc unless "somebody turns around."

Drilon, for his part, remained nonchalant about moves to oust him, reiterating that the Senate presidency was the "gift of 13 senators."

"The moment there is another senator who would have the support of 13 senators, I would willingly give him the presidency and transfer to him the gavel of the office," he said in a briefing. "The matter of the Senate presidency is not for Malacañang to give. It is for the Senate to decide."

But Liberal Party (LP) national chair and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza urged Drilon to resign and "follow his own political direction."

"Obviously, he is committed to his own agenda," Atienza said yesterday, convinced that Drilon, who is LP president, was involved in efforts to destabilize the government.

Atienza said the LP was "not part" of the dirty politics being employed by Drilon against Ms Arroyo or in the alleged plot to oust the President.

Atienza was referring to the allegations of Santiago that Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino were behind a plot to oust the President by Oct. 15.

Atienza said Drilon had been throwing mud and accusations against Ms Arroyo and her government and that the party was hurt by his actions.

"We dissociate ourselves from the president of the party. We do not agree with what our party president, Senate President Drilon, is doing right now," he told reporters.

Asked whether there were plans for the LP to discipline Drilon, Atienza said the party would "come to that." With Tina G. Santos

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government (PCGG) has the authority to sell the Marcos jewelry collection.

This according to PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede, who cited seven laws which gave the agency the authority to dispose of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth and assets, including the jewelry collection once owned by former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Abcede called a press conference yesterday after former Solicitor General Raul Goco, lawyer Estelito Mendoza and former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said the PCGG did not have the authority to sell the Marcos jewelry.

"Since 1986, we have been disposing of Marcos assets. They (Goco and Dilangalen) should have known that. So why are they questioning our au-

thority only now? They should have done their homework," Abcede said.

He noted that the PCGG's detractors were all aligned with the opposition. Dilangalen was former spokesperson of former President Joseph Estrada. Goco was a lawyer-volunteer for former presidential standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. while Mendoza is a lawyer for San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco.

Alcun Papa

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| 2                                                                                                        | SAUSAGE LIKE BUT LUMPY                        |             |
| 3                                                                                                        | LIKE A SAUSAGE BUT WITH CRACKS IN THE SURFACE |             |
| 4                                                                                                        | LIKE A SAUSAGE OR SHAKE SMOOTH AND SOFT       |             |
| 5                                                                                                        | SOFT BLOBS WITH CLEAR CUT EDGES               |             |
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# Experts seek protection for Kalayaan marine life

By Blanche S. Rivera

MARINE EXPERTS ARE URGING THE GOVERNMENT to declare the Kalayaan Islands Group (KIG) west of Palawan as a marine protected area because of the rapid depletion of biological resources in the disputed territory.

Experts from the Silliman University-Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (SUAKCREM) who joined a recent oceanographic expedition in the South China Sea said the alarmingly low fish biomass in the KIG made their appeal "urgent."

SUAKCREM Prof. Angel C. Alcala said the government should declare at least 30 percent of the 600 to 1,000-sq-km of coral reefs in the KIG as a protected area to sustain marine life.

"We are worried because many people think it's still pristine and do not pay much attention to its condition, but it's not pristine anymore," Alcala told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"There is too much exploitation, and the DENR does not know it," he said.

Alcala had met with officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs to discuss which of the Philippine territorial islands could be declared marine protected areas, as well as the possibility of jointly managing protected areas in contested parts of the KIG.

The KIG, which is being claimed by the

Philippines, Vietnam and China, covers an area about the size of Luzon, including more than 300 islands and sunken reefs in the South China Sea.

An oceanographic and marine scientific research expedition jointly conducted by the Philippines and Vietnam in April showed that while the coral reefs in the Trident shoal and Pugad-Parola atoll were found to be in good condition, there was "very low biomass of fish," indicating little marine life being sustained by the reefs.

There were only 12 tons of biomass per square kilometer in the Trident shoal and 29-43 tons per square kilometer in the Pugad-Parola atoll, according to a report by the SUAKCREM.

Biomass refers to the measure of the quantity of a stock at a given time. The coral reefs in the KIG had at least 90 metric tons of biomass per square kilometer in 2003.

The survey also showed that only a few species of large invertebrates like giant clams and sea cucumbers remained in the KIG.

"This status is more likely to worsen as harvests of fish and other marine species continue unabated... It is therefore urgent that the Philippine government take necessary steps to protect... the coral reefs to ensure the connectivity patterns of the coral reefs in the KIG are maintained for marine productivity," SUAKCREM said in a statement.

## Parents urged to screen babies for killer ailments

By Christian V. Esguerra

SOME 33,000 NEWBORN FILIPINO BABIES every year are afflicted with life-threatening congenital metabolic disorders, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III revealed yesterday.

Duque cited the alarming figure to encourage parents to have their newborns screened soon after birth to make sure they were not carrying any disorders.

The procedure, which costs P550, would determine if a baby needs immediate treatment for a condition that could lead to mental retardation or even death, he said.

"This is done, usually between 24 and 72 hours after birth, by pricking the heel of a baby wherein four drops of blood are drawn and blotted onto a filter paper," Duque said at the launch of Newborn Screening Week at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila yesterday.

Parents do not have to give their consent to

the test. But they have to sign a "dissent form" should they refuse the procedure for their baby.

Five of the most common fatal metabolic disorders are congenital hypothyroidism, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, galactosemia, phenylketonuria (which could result in mental retardation) and glucose-6-phosphate-dehydrogenase deficiency.

Screening of newborns began in the country in 1996 in 24 hospitals in Metro Manila. It is now a regular procedure in 571 government and private health facilities.

The policy was given an additional boost when the Newborn Screening Act was enacted last year.

A study done by proponents of the screening showed that one out of 80,622 newborns was afflicted with galactosemia. One out of 53,748 was sick with phenylketonuria, one out of 3,839 had congenital hypothyroidism, and one out of 9,485 had congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

## Devotees to light up shrine to Brown Madonna in Baguio

MARIAN DEVOTEES WILL LIGHT HUNDREDS of candles as the Shrine of the Brown Madonna on Asin Road in Baguio City, celebrates its 19th anniversary today.

The fragrance of roses, lilies, gardenias and carnations will greet pilgrims who will attend the anniversary Mass and potluck picnic at the grotto.

One of the most beautiful shrines in the country, the image of the six-foot high Brown Madonna smiles from its pedestal, resplendent in white, with a chestnut-brown cape reaching down to its feet. A single cherubim snuggles close to its side.

The shrine, once an abandoned tunnel, was discovered in 1986 by Nars Padilla, a former Baguio City councilor. He was driving his car along Asin Road in Sitio Pacac when he stopped to drink from a spring on the mountainside.

Padilla followed the spring until he came to the tunnel partly hidden by ferns and foliage. Being a prayerful man, Padilla visualized a grotto for the Virgin Mary.

He went back to Quezon Hill and convinced his neighbors and Marian devotees to transform the tunnel into a beautiful shrine.

Bayanihan-style, they cleared the area, constructed concrete benches and brought in an image of the Brown Madonna.

The Shrine of the Brown Madonna is eight times the size of the Lourdes Grotto in France. It was actually a tunnel built as shortcut for a rack-and-pinion railway train linking Aringay, La Union and Baguio.

Construction started in 1915 but was abandoned in 1916. Because of the outbreak of World War I, it became difficult to import rails from Europe and transport them to Asia. Besides, war became a priority spending for the railway's British financiers.

In 1916, two tunnels had already been dug out of the Benguet mountains. The first one in Tuba was completed. The second one on Asin Road, although spacious enough for a train to pass through, was never finished.

It was only in 1986, when Padilla accidentally found the tunnel, that it was discovered.

On Sundays, Catholic priests from Baguio's parishes take turns saying Mass at the Brown Madonna Shrine. No priest has been assigned to the shrine, but Padilla and other Marian devotees are praying that one day, the Church will officially recognize the diocese.



ROTARIANS AID AIR FORCE

Philippine Air Force personnel and their dependents confined at the PAF General Hospital receive foodstuffs and other goods from the Rotary Club of Pasay Villamor led by its president Willy de la Cruz (left). Also in photo are club members Maj. Doris Ortega (2nd from left) and Col. Ordle Sta. Ana (3rd from right).

ROGER MARGALLO

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|                                             | AM Session | 1-3pm                                     | Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (2 CU) | Justice Ruben T. Reyes<br>Associate Justice, Court of Appeals                 |
|                                             | PM Session | 3:15-6:15pm                               | Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (3 CU) | Ambassador Lilia R. Bautista<br>Former Chairperson, SEC                       |
| October 15, 2005                            | AM Session | 8-10am                                    | International Law (2 CU)                                       | Justice Isagani A. Cruz<br>Associate Justice, Supreme Court                   |
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| October 29, 2005                            | AM Session | 8-10am                                    | MCLE-Prescribed: Reforms in the Law (2 CU)                     | Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma<br>Head, Board of Special Inquiry, BI                |
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# Hacienda Luisita owes banks P300M, lawyer admits

By Blanche S. Rivera

PORTIONS OF THE 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita had been mortgaged to five banks due to losses suffered by the corporation that has been managing the sugar estate for the past 16 years.

Hacienda Luisita Inc. has a consolidated loan amounting to around P300 million, according to HLI spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II.

Mendoza confirmed what farm workers had been saying—that parts of the hacienda technically belonged to the banks, a situation that could pose legal problems after the government recommend-

ed the hacienda be broken up and given to its workers.

A memorandum of encumbrances attached to one of the titles to the Luisita estate showed HLI had an outstanding obligation of P550 million to Prudential Bank as of 2000.

Romeo Capulong, lawyer of the Luisita farmers, said HLI's financial obligations could be bigger.

But Mendoza maintained HLI only had one consolidated loan of less than P300 million after its other loans had been settled.

"These are past due not just from Prudential Bank but from five banks. The amount bal-

looned because the interest accumulated when HLI stopped operations last year," Mendoza told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. He refused to name the other banks.

The new information compelled the Department of Agrarian Reform's special legal team to convene yesterday to discuss the legal implications of HLI's debts.

Task Force Luisita, which recommended the revocation of the stock distribution option to the workers due to violations in the agreement, did not look into HLI's mortgages during its investigation the past 10 months.

DAR director Ibra Omar, head of the task force, said the mortgages of the hacienda were not part of the issues the team had looked into during its investigation.

Capulong said that while mortgages were allowed under Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the farmer-stockholders did not know about or benefit from any of HLI's transactions.

He said the DAR should ask the register of deeds in Tarlac to include the DAR decision revoking the SDO at the hacienda as an encumbrance on all the titles covering the estate.

Capulong said the DAR should compel the HLI board to pay its outstanding loans because it would be "unfair" to the farmers to have to assume the liabilities when they take over the hacienda.

"Let it be the personal obligation of those who benefited from the loans," he said.

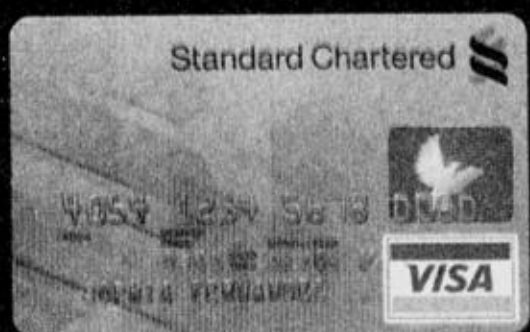
Capulong urged the DAR to require HLI management to render a full accounting of HLI's operations from 1989 to 2005 and "take all measures to stop further transactions on the estate including sale, lease, mortgage or joint ventures."

HLI has a pending application

to extend the period for development of the 500-ha portion of the hacienda that was converted to industrial, commercial and residential use in 1996.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, however, said the DAR decision scrapping the SDO and to distribute the land to its workers would "definitely affect" the petition.

Only 200 of the 500 hectares have been developed into a technopark since its conversion in 1996. Landowners have only five years to develop converted land, otherwise it reverts to agricultural use.



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## Remember Gandhi-Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria and Cynthia D. Balana

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez said yesterday he had alerted top security aides of President Macapagal-Arroyo about a supposed plot to abduct or kill her because he feared a scenario similar to that which befell Indira Gandhi.

The late Indian prime minister was shot 16 times and killed by her Sikh bodyguards in her residence in 1984.

Gonzalez said he did not personally talk to Ms Arroyo about the alleged plot because it was already in the news.

"I did mention ... reminded some top security people of the President about what happened to Indira Gandhi," Gonzalez told reporters. "But it doesn't mean that they are the suspects."

But Gonzalez said he was "certain" the people around Ms Arroyo had been properly screened.

Vice President Noli de Castro said forcibly removing or killing a president would not solve a country's political crisis.

"Imagine killing the President ... there would be no peace," De Castro said in Filipino.

He said it would be easier for him to succeed her if the President were removed legally or resigned. He appealed for cooler heads to intervene to end the political crisis.



MEMBERS of a militant group hold a rally in front of Camp Aguinaldo in support of General Gudani and Colonel Balutan.

JOAN BONDOC



Sen. Rodolfo Biazon looks on as besieged Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani arrives at Camp Aguinaldo Monday.

JOAN BONDOC

# Gudani invokes right to remain silent

From page A1

2004 elections.

Gudani was then commander of the 1st Marine Brigade while Balutan was one of his three battalion commanders.

Gudani was fired as assistant superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy and Balutan was relieved as assistant commandant of PMA cadets following their Senate testimony.

On the same day of their Senate appearance, Ms Arroyo issued an executive order banning all government and military officials from attending congressional hearings without her authorization.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee

and a former AFP chief of staff, went with Gudani and Balutan to Camp Aguinaldo at 10 a.m. Biazon did not attend the proceedings but left his lawyer, Jet de los Santos, to assist the two officers.

After the 90-minute meeting, Gudani and Balutan were returned to Senate custody.

"I have only one statement: God bless the Philippines," Gudani told reporters.

Gudani is retiring from the military service today. A planned parade at the PMA to honor him was cancelled following his sacking.

**Judge Advocate to file charges**

Provost Marshal Col. Henry Galarpe insisted the proceedings

were in the fact-finding stage and it was up to the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) to file charges and conduct a pre-trial investigation.

He said that because he could not force Gudani and Balutan to participate in the proceedings, he would recommend that Jago act against them.

"The mere fact that they defied the instruction of the President which was relayed by the chief of staff to them to not attend the hearing without official approval is already tantamount to insubordination," Galarpe said.

Said Poblador: "If they're being asked to testify before the Senate in the exercise of its authority to enact laws, then no other branch

of government should stop them from doing so," Poblador said.

The meeting was described as "cordial" by both camps.

**Personal torment**

In an interview with the INQUIRER over the weekend, Balutan maintained his respect for the chain of command.

Known in the Marine Corps as "Mandirigma (The Warrior)" for his bravery in combat, Balutan spoke of his personal torment when he got orders from the top to "slacken" security during last year's vote canvassing, which would have surely allowed cheating.

He said he did not volunteer to testify, pointing out he had been summoned by the Senate and had been allowed by the AFP to testify. He said it was only as the hearing was about to start that he was told about the President's order.

By then it was too late to back out, he said.

Even if he now risks losing his career, Balutan said he had no regrets about speaking out against politicking in the military.

"This is my way of showing that I love the Armed Forces. We have to correct the bad things and restore dignity and honor in the Armed Forces," he said.

Leaders of the Philippines for Jesus Movement (PJM) rallied behind Gudani and Balutan.

"The government does not want the truth to come out," Bishop Dan Balais said in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

"We have been troubled by the responses or the acts of our government with regard to the witnesses in connection with election fraud," he said.

"We wanted to know what really happened and this would not come out unless the witness will be allowed to speak out without any harassment or intimidation

from the government."

**Arroyo stifling dissent**

But by subjecting Gudani and Balutan to court-martial, the Arroyo administration was "trying to stifle others who know what really happened during the last elections," he said.

The PJM is an umbrella organization of around 5,000 evangelical churches, including the Victory Christian Fellowship, the so-called "church of the stars."

"Because General Gudani and Colonel Balutan took a stand for God and country, today they face grave and unfair chastisement," the group said. "This is how their patriotism is rewarded."

By coming out in support of Gudani, an active born-again Christian, the group wanted to send a strong signal to the Arroyo administration that "there are many from the churches who would be standing by the truth," Balais said.

Rev. Gus Lising urged those who also knew the truth about last year's elections to come forward and speak out.

"When our government is no longer standing for what is right and (it is) hiding behind the laws of the land," said Pastor Emilio Henaes, "then our government has no more credibility in the eyes of the people."

"The foundation of lies and deception just cannot continue," he said.

The position taken by the PJM was in stark contrast to that of another major evangelical organization, the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, which was essentially supportive of Ms Arroyo.

At the height of the campaign to unseat her, PCEC leaders trooped to Malacañang in a symbolic show of support for the embattled President. With a report from Christian V. Esguerra

## Stop circulating rumors, PNP chief appeals to texters

From page A1

cell phones, saying they could be part of efforts to undermine the Arroyo administration.

"Let us not destabilize through text messages," Lomibao said.

"Let us not waste our time with these messages. They might be part of the destabilization, and we do not like things to happen this way."

Lomibao cited text messages which, he said, claimed that he and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga had met with the opposition to plan the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

**Even economy is harmed**

Another message said that cadets of the Philippine Military Academy had walked out, apparently to join calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Such text messages have not done the country or the economy any good, Lomibao said, adding that these were not based on events on the ground.

"I'd like to appeal to our people ... we should stop these text messages and rumor-mongering," he said.

**Solidly behind GMA**

He reiterated that the police remained solidly behind the Constitution and Ms Arroyo's administration.



LOMIBAO PDI PHOTO

"All these things will only tend to or attempt to divide the rank and file, and we should not allow these things to happen," he said.

Lomibao said that on Sunday night, he even had to speak over the radio to dismiss any notion that there was a trace of truth in the text messages.

**Baseless information**

They even prompted him to call up his ground commanders to get feedback from them.

"I have been in constant touch with General Senga, and my commanders in the field," he said. "In fact, we called all the commanders in the field and other major units heads ... and they said that all this information is not correct."

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## Abalos pushes use of poll computers

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CHAIR BENJAMIN ABALOS Sr. has continued to press for the use of the vote-counting machines the Comelec acquired under the P1.3 billion contract voided by the Supreme Court last year due to irregularities in the procurement process.

Abalos told the *Inquirer* in an interview that any new outlay proposed by Malacañang to modernize elections should be spent on such things as electronic equipment to transmit election results from the provinces and new technology for voter registration but not on new vote-counting machines.

He was commenting on a disclosure by Budget Secretary Romulo Neri last week that Malacañang was eyeing P1.6 billion to modernize the country's election process in time for the 2007 national elections.

Some 1,000 counting machines obtained under the nullified contract with Mega Pacific Consortium are still in the Comelec's possession because, in spite of the high court's order, the suppliers have refused to accept the equipment back and return the money.

A case has been filed in court against Mega Pacific while the National Citizen Movement for Free Elections (Nanfre) has filed charges against the entire Comelec before the Ombudsman. Nothing has come of those cases so far.

"These machines are new and have been tested successfully for their accuracy," Abalos said. "We have already paid for them so they should be used in the elections rather than gather dust in our storehouses."

He said the machines could be used in any special election that be held between now and the 2007 elections.

Jerome Aning

# Senate to probe loss of ballot boxes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

UNDAUNTED BY MALACAÑANG'S charge that it was conducting inquiries in "aid of destabilization," the Senate has scheduled another investigation on Oct. 17 — this time on the alleged loss of ballot boxes in the custody of the House of Representatives intended for the recount of votes in the electoral protest filed by ex-Sen. Loren Legarda.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, said the panel's investigation should not be regarded as an attempt to destabilize the government.

"No, it is just a question of lost ballot boxes and lost keys or padlocks, and also the modernization aspect," said Gordon.

He said the Senate has to investigate the loss of the ballot boxes after Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pi-

mentel Jr. delivered a privilege speech on the matter.

"So we have to take it up in terms of discussing what happened to the boxes and what are the ways we can modernize the elections so that there will be no questions about the results," Gordon said.

Gordon said members of the committee, including Pimentel and administration Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo, met yesterday and agreed the investigation should proceed.

He said he also met with some Commission on Elections officials who will be summoned to the investigation.

The inquiry on the ballot boxes will be the fourth to be conducted by the Senate since Malacañang raised objections to what it said were de facto impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Senate last week held hearings

on the government's P50 million deal with American lobby firm Venable LLP supposedly to seek US funding for Charter change; the wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's phone conversations allegedly with a Comelec official suggesting cheating in the 2004 presidential polls, and the alleged overprice of the \$503-million NorthRail project with China.

A fifth investigation is scheduled this week on charges that fertilizer funds of the Department of Agriculture were used to fund Ms Arroyo's election campaign. The investigation will be conducted by the Senate committee on agriculture headed by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

An offshoot of the consecutive inquiries was the issuance by the President of Executive Order No. 464 prohibiting government, military and police officials from testifying in Congress without her permission.

Some congressmen yesterday questioned EO 464 in the Supreme Court.

Gordon said the custodians of the ballot boxes in the House will also be asked to testify at the hearing.

He said the Comelec officials could not be prevented by the Palace from attending the hearing because they were officials of a constitutional body not covered by EO 464.

He said he had not made up his mind whether or not to summon Malacañang officials.

According to Legarda's lawyer Sixto Brillantes, most of the over 200 ballot boxes brought to the House for safekeeping after his client filed her protest were later found to be missing.

The statements of votes and certificates of canvass from several provinces stored in those boxes would have proved that Legarda had been cheated of votes in the vice presidential race, he had said earlier.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, October 4, 2005  
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 3:1-10  
Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he entered a village and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister named Mary who sat down at the Lord's feet to listen to his words. Martha, meanwhile, was busy with all the serving and finally she said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the serving?"

But the Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about many things, whereas only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

### Commentary

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and stops in to stay with his friends; Martha, Mary and Lazarus (though he is not mentioned). Martha waits on him and the other disciples and Mary sits listening to him. This short piece is the ending of the story that has come before—the lawyer who wishes to justify his behavior and the good samaritan and Martha who wishes to justify her behavior and make Mary act like her. She too is rebuked by Jesus—no, Mary has chosen the better part. She has chosen to 'get in to the ditch and care for the one beaten and left for dead on the road to Jerusalem.' Jesus is on his way to be crucified and Mary stays near him—that's the better part—to stand and live close to those who are beaten by others, who are crucified and left for dead. All else must serve that, and those who stand close by the cross. And we—do we seek to justify what we do in the Church, rather than look to those who work for justice and care for the suffering and dying, stand with those condemned, crucified and put to death, remembering what is the heart of our religion? Francis learned that and bore the marks of the crucified in his own body.

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## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



**LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)**—Control test in employer-employee relationship—Petitioners insist that respondents are not their employees, because the former exercised no control over the latter's work hours and method of performing tasks. Thus, petitioners contend that under the "control test," the workers were independent contractors. As shown by the evidence on record, petitioners hired respondents, who performed tasks assigned by their respective officers-in-charge, who in turn were all under the direct supervision and control of petitioner Bondoc. These allegations are contained in the workers' affidavits, which were never disputed by petitioners. Also uncontroverted are the payrolls bearing the name of the plantation company and signed by petitioner Bondoc. Some of these payrolls include the time records of the employees. These documents prove that petitioner-company exercised control and supervision over them. To operate against the employer, the power of control need not have been actually exercised. Proof of the existence of such power is enough. Certainly, petitioners wielded that power to hire or dismiss, as well as to check on the progress and the quality of work of the laborers. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Pamplona Plantation Company Inc. v. Tinghil, G.R. No. 159121, February 3, 2005]

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Tourist video shows full Bali horror

KUTA, INDONESIA—THE VIDEO images are grainy but the effect is chilling.

A man in a black T-shirt calmly crosses the Raja restaurant in Bali, where friends and family are eating, drinking and chatting away, enjoying a festive Saturday night out.

He walks back toward the kitchen, and then comes the boom of an explosion.

And then there are screams and panic.

Indonesian police showed the footage to reporters on Sunday but declined to identify the man who shot the video, saying his identity was being kept secret for his own protection.

But the images of one of the three bombings that ripped through Bali, killing at least 19 people and wounding more than 120 in all, provided a glimpse into the work of those who kill themselves in order to kill others.

"This is a suicide bombing," Bali police chief I Made Mangku Pastika said at a press conference.

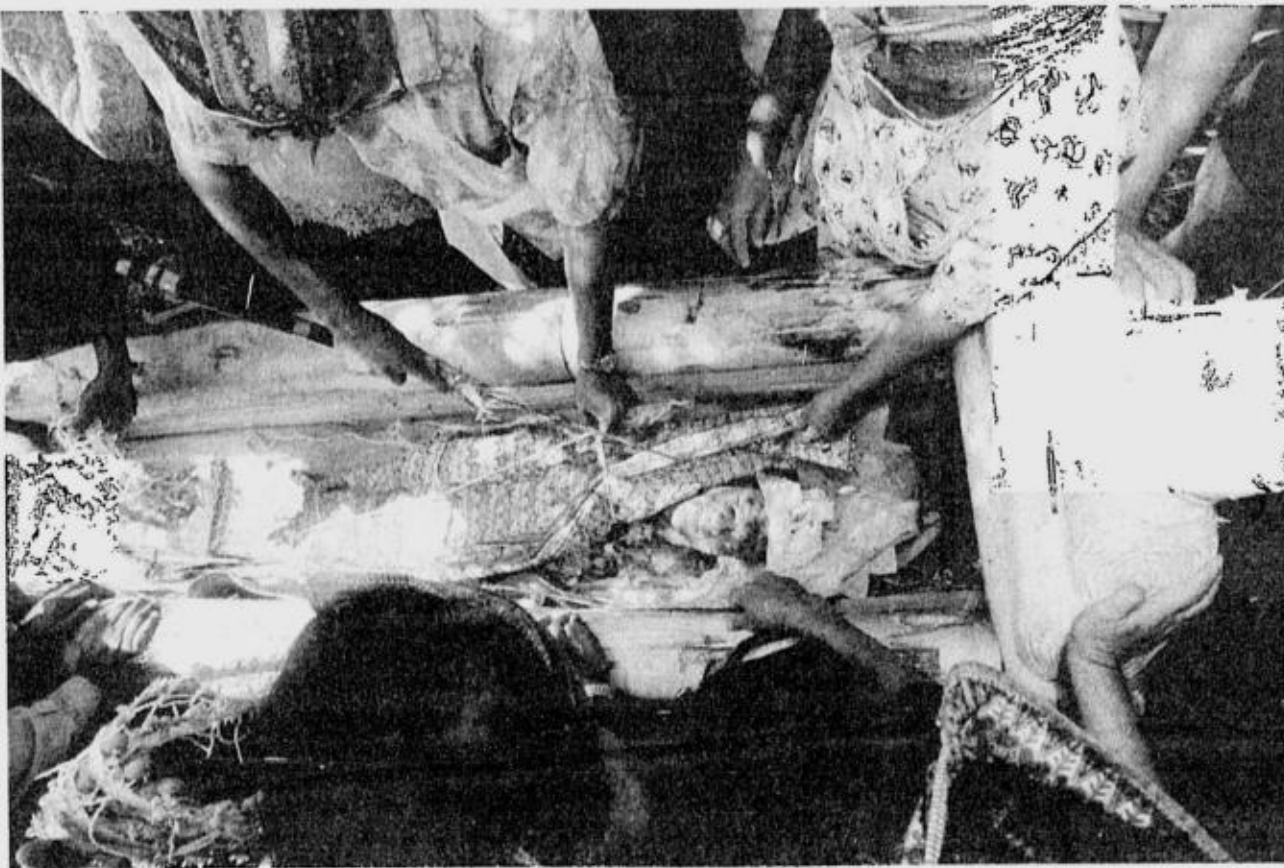
"I am certain that there are others involved in this bombing. There are those who planned it, there were those making the arrangements, those preparing the bombs," Pastika said. "Those are the ones we must search for."

He said at least three people helped the bombers carry out their attacks but did not explain one of the many questions now facing police—why the bomb set off in the Raja did not do more damage.

The bomber walked past tables with dozens of diners unaware of what was to come, went to the back of the room and entered the kitchen, which was screened off from the dining room by a chest-high partition.

Suddenly the bomber—who appears to be carrying a backpack—is engulfed in a blinding flash and explodes in a ball of fire.

Only one other person was killed at the restaurant. Police did not name the victim but



friends of waiter Wayan Sudik said they had identified his body.

Pastika said authorities were probing whether the device was operated by a timer or set off by the suspect himself.

"We are investigating how the explosion took place," he said.

The video shown to reporters was edited and the faces of the cameraman's party were obscured by police, who did not indicate what happened to the group other than to say that the cameraman's arm was injured.

But some of the wounded from the blasts are known to have been pierced by ball bearings, which the bombers apparently packed into their bombs to inflict maximum pain and injury.

Police later showed pictures of the severed heads of the three men believed behind the blasts in Kuta and Jimbaran, and said one of the heads was found 25 m away from its body.

The heads were intact and the country's top counterterrorism official, Ansyad Mbai, said they appeared to belong to Indonesians. **AFP Reuters**

**RELATIVES perform ritual rites as they carry the coffin of bomb blast victim Ibusti Sudana to a crematory during his funeral in Bali, Oct. 3. A series of bomb attacks hit the Indonesian resort island of Bali Oct. 1, with at least 19 killed.** **AFP**

### Tourists seen more defiant now, won't shun Bali

BANGKOK—THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IS proving no deterrent to the world's travelers, say experts, who believe even the second attack on Bali will have only limited impact on the resort island's lynchpin tourism industry.

Although Saturday's blasts will send the Indonesian island's travel sector into an initial nosedive, tourism analysts say the experiences of other target cities suggest its beaches will be packed again within a year or two.

"A lot really depends on how the government is perceived to be dealing with the problem but I think tourists will return," said Joseph Tong, executive director of Hong Kong's Travel Industry Council trade organization.

"London has had lots of bomb attacks in the past and there were the big ones recently, but still people return because the government is seen to be doing something about the terrorists," Tong said.

Industry chiefs agree, pointing to a bounce back in tourism at destination cities like New York, Madrid, London, Istanbul and Sharm el Sheikh soon after attacks in recent years.

A report by the World Tourism Organization, a global travel industry group, said travelers were becoming less fearful and more defiant.

"In the past few years, civil society has become aware of the global nature of these threats and have resisted caving in to them," the group's secretary general Francesco Frangialli said.

"In 2001, the Sept. 11 attacks (in the United States) generated fear. But recent acts of terrorism have been met more by a sentiment of repugnance," Frangialli said. **AFP**

## Bangladeshis rejoice over arrest of one of most wanted terrorists

DHAKA—BANGLADESHIS APPLAUDED POLICE on Monday for what appeared to be their first big breakthrough in a crackdown on Islamic militancy with the weekend arrest of a man long hunted as one of the country's top terrorists.

Security officials said Mufti Abdul Hannan, accused of leading the Bangladesh chapter of the Islamist militant group Harkatul Jihad, was among the "top terrorists" they had been seeking for years.

"The law enforcement agencies must be commended for the dramatic capture of Mufti Hannan, a kingpin of the Islamic militants in Bangladesh," the Daily Star newspaper said in an editorial on Monday.

Hannan went into hiding after police foiled a bomb attack planned by Harkatul activists to kill former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a rally in southwestern Gopalganj district in July 2000. Police defused the bomb before it could be detonated.

Newspapers linked Hannan with Islamic extremists in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir, as well as Shayek Abdul Rahman and Bangla Bhai, leaders of two local banned militant outfits, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and Jagrata Muslim Jana.

Police suspect both groups were involved in a series of explosions across the country on Aug. 17 that killed two people and wounded about 100.

"... Given his antecedents, (Hannan) may well be involved in the countrywide bomb blast of 17th August," the Star said, adding: "The capture of the prime accused in the plot to kill the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ... is def-

initely a feather in the cap of the intelligence and the law enforcing agencies."

In new violence on Monday, one man was killed and three were wounded when a bomb exploded at a court building in Bangladesh's southeastern Chandpur town. No other details were immediately available.

Police in Bangladesh have been accused of neglecting their crime-fighting duties for political reasons, but there has been a flurry of police activity since Aug. 17, with at least 400 suspects detained in connection with the bombings.

"This is a breakthrough and they (law agencies) deserve a big thanks. One of the most dangerous men out in the open has been caged," said Saidur Rahman, a government employee.

Witnesses said residents of Gopalganj, one of Hasina's powerbases and the location of her ancestral home, broke into spontaneous celebrations on news of Hannan's arrest with dancing and singing.

Before Hasina lost power in a 2001 election to incumbent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, police filed "attempted murder" charges against Hannan and a court sentenced him to life in prison.

But he managed to evade arrest until Saturday night when an elite force made up of police and army troops captured him at a hideout in the capital Dhaka.

A US State Department report on terrorism in 2004 cited Harkatul Jihad, also known as Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh, for pursuing a mission to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh, a mainly Muslim democracy. **Reuters**

## 21 drown in NY state accident

NEW YORK—INVESTIGATORS in the US state of New York searched for evidence of criminal negligence Monday as they tried to determine why 21 elderly holiday makers drowned when their tour boat capsized in the placid waters of Lake George.

All 50 of the boat's occupants, including a guide and the vessel's captain, have been either confirmed dead or accounted for, Warren County Sheriff Larry Cleveland said.

"We do know that 21 people have perished and 29 people have been accounted for," he said.

The boat that overturned Sunday, was carrying elderly travelers, who came to admire fall foliage and whose trip originated in Michigan state but was booked through a Canadian travel agency, the sheriff said.

The Canadian government was investigating earlier reports that many of the passengers were Canadian, officials in Ottawa said.

"We are not in a position to confirm whether Canadians were on board the boat or were among those who perished," Canada's parliamentary secretary responsible for Canadians abroad, Dan McTeague, said.

Canadian officials are "on their way" to the scene and Canada's foreign affairs department is liaising with local officials, he said. **AFP**



### BALANCING ACT

Ethnic Chinese dancers balance clay pots on their heads as they perform to entertain visitors at a park in Beijing, Oct. 3, as part of the National Day festivities. The country is seeing some 370 million domestic and overseas arrivals and departures during the National Day holiday, also known as Golden Week, as China commemorates the 1949 Communist revolution. **AFP**

## 5 judges picked for Saddam trial

BAGHDAD—FIVE JUDGES HAVE BEEN chosen for the much-anticipated trial this month of toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein over the massacre of Shiite Muslim villagers in 1982, a source close to the court said Sunday.

"Five magistrates will try Saddam Hussein," the Iraqi Special Tribunal source said without identifying the judges.

Saddam and seven of his former henchmen are due to go on trial on Oct. 19 for the killing of 143 Shiite Muslims in the village of Dujail, north of Baghdad in 1982, following an attempt on his life there.

The eight face the death penalty if found guilty.

Asked about the possibility of a postponement as demanded by Saddam's defense lawyer, the source said: "That depends entirely on the judges. The tribunal is totally independent."

He said the court would follow "legal Iraqi procedures" for the trial, the first major case involving figures in Saddam's ousted regime.

Saddam's Iraqi lawyer Khalid Dulami

has requested a delay, claiming that his client's rights have been seriously violated throughout the legal process.

"We have not been duly informed about any certain date for a trial," Dulami said last month.

"The defense has not been enabled to review any files of the charges or even any paper of investigation, despite the fact that we have made many and repeated requests to this effect," he said.

However, another tribunal source said last month that Dulami had been given access to all prosecution documents and to his client whenever he requested.

"His lawyers can bring international experts, (Saddam) can seek to have other people to meet with him, or he can bring other lawyers. No one who Saddam recognizes as his attorney has been denied access," the source added.

Among those who will face the court along with Saddam are ex-vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan, his half-brother and former intelligence boss Barzan Ibrahim al-Hassan and a former deputy chief in Saddam's Cabinet.

Awad Ahmad al-Bandar.

The other four—Abdullah Khadem Ruweid, Mezhar Abdullah Ruweid, Ali Daeh and Mohammed Azzam al-Ali—are former ruling Baath party officials responsible for the Dujail area.

Saddam, 68, who also faces possible trial over the brutal oppression of about 180,000 Kurds in the late 1980s, has been in US custody since his capture by US-led forces in December 2003.

Iraq's Kurdish President Jalal Talabani claimed last month that Saddam had "confessed" to some of his alleged crimes when interrogated by an investigating judge but this was denied by members of his Jordan-based defense team.

One of Saddam's nephews, Aymen Sabawi, was last month sentenced to life behind bars for making bombs and financing rebel activities in the violence-ravaged country.

The most senior former regime stalwart still on the run is Ezzat Ibrahim al-Duri, Saddam's former deputy and vice president of the former ruling Revolutionary Command Council. **AFP**

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# Nuclear rivals India, Pakistan launch 'cordial' peace talks, sign two pacts

ISLAMABAD—INDIA AND PAKISTAN signed two agreements on security cooperation on Monday as their foreign ministers discussed a tentative peace process, but a breakthrough on their core dispute over Kashmir was not expected.

India's Natwar Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, said their talks were going well as officials signed pacts on advance warning of ballistic missile tests and on a hotline between their coast guards.

"All I can say is that the talks went off in a very cordial manner," Kasuri told reporters at the foreign ministry in Islamabad, during a break in the discussions.

Singh said: "We have had very good talks. Now we are again going for talks."

The nuclear-armed neighbors have gone to war three times since independence in 1947 and nearly fought a fourth in 2002 before launching a peace process early last year.

As well as the two security pacts, there is also a possibility of progress on the withdrawal of troops from a disputed Himalayan glacier and on a maritime border row, analysts said.

But a breakthrough on the main issue of contention, their decades-long dispute over the Himalayan re-

gion of Kashmir, was not likely, analysts from both sides have said.

"We shouldn't expect major breakthroughs but definitely we'll see some progress," Jamshed Ayaz, president of the Institute of Regional Studies, an Islamabad-based think-tank, said on Sunday.

Singh's visit follows a meeting between Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York last month that ended without any major announcement or concrete initiatives, as many had expected.

Even before that meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the neighbors exchanged barbs on Kashmir.

Both countries claim the region but it remains divided by a ceasefire line, the result of their first war over the territory soon after independence from Britain in 1947.

Tens of thousands have died in Indian Kashmir since 1989, when a Muslim separatist revolt against Indian rule erupted.

India wants Pakistan to do more to stop militants slipping across the ceasefire line into Indian Kashmir. Muslim Pakistan says Indian forces should stop rights abuses in the region.

Despite differences over Kashmir, a ceasefire has held there since late 2003 and the two sides have

launched a so-called composite dialogue on a range of issues, including Kashmir.

While little progress has been made on Kashmir, the two sides have reached agreement in several other areas including the restoration of diplomatic, sports and transport links, as well as on some trade and prisoner exchanges.

They have also discussed energy cooperation, in particular a \$7 billion gas pipeline from Iran, through Pakistan, to India.

Reuters

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November 12, 2005 to March 11, 2006  
Every Saturday, 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
2005年11月12日至2006年3月11日  
每逢星期六下午一時三十分至四時
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Every Saturday, 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
2005年11月12日至2006年3月11日  
每逢星期六下午一時三十分至四時
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SHINAWATRA

## Thai PM sues media tycoon \$12M for slander

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN Shinawatra has filed two slander suits against friend-turned-foe media tycoon Sondhi Limthongkul, demanding 500 million baht (\$12 million) in compensation, a court official said on Monday.

The civil and criminal cases—filed separately on Friday—accused Sondhi, his TV show co-host and its production firm of slandering state officials and defaming them in a television show that has since been taken off the air, a civil court official said.

These are the first libel suits Thaksin has brought since he took power in 2001, although Shin Corp., Thailand's largest telecoms firm which he founded, sued a media freedom activist for \$10 million last year.

That case is still being tried.

The suits said Sondhi and co-host Sarocha Pornudomsak had accused Thaksin several times of being disloyal to the monarchy during the Thailand Weekly show aired on Sept. 9 on state-run Channel 9, Sondhi's newspaper, Manager, said on its website.

"Both defendants took advantage of being the mass media in their show to slander the plaintiff unfairly beyond the boundary of media freedom," said the website http://www.manager.co.th.

State-run MCOT banned the current affairs show after that broadcast, citing repetition of "unfair" criticisms against various parties and unnecessary mentions of the revered monarchy.

Sondhi, once a staunch Thaksin supporter, then took his show on the road, staging it twice at a Bangkok university, drawing thousands of people with hard-hitting attacks on Thaksin and his government.

The tycoon, whose empire of satellites, regional newspapers and magazines is now financially healthy after three years in bankruptcy, filed a civil case against MCOT for 1-baht compensation.

Sondhi is running a "We Love the King" campaign, accusing the government of infringing on the monarchy's powers.

Sondhi was not available for immediate comment. Neither were Thaksin's lawyers and his cabinet staff.

The Bangkok Criminal Court set the first hearing for Dec. 26, officials said.

Reuters

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# EU on brink of new crisis as Turkey standoff rages

LUXEMBOURG—THE EUROPEAN Union teetered on the brink of a new crisis Monday, and left Turkey's EU hopes hanging in the balance, as Austria held out against an accord to clear the way for landmark talks with Ankara.

Hours before the EU-Turkey talks were due to begin—and as Turkish leaders waited in Ankara before deciding whether to fly to Luxembourg—British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said he was not certain a deal could be struck.

"I hope that we are able to make progress but I cannot say for certain that we will be able to make progress," he told reporters, adding that he would not impose an "arbitrary deadline" for a deal.

He was speaking after talks among EU foreign ministers broke up in the early hours without agreement. The ministers were due to resume their formal talks again around 9:30 a.m. Monday.

Failure to start the Turkey talks would only deepen an EU crisis triggered by French and Dutch voters' rejection of the bloc's draft constitution in May and June. Some cited opposition to Turkey's EU hopes as a reason for voting no.

Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, arriving for a bilateral meeting with Straw ahead of the resumed EU talks, said there could still be a deal, even though admitting that "very little progress" had been made so far.

"We haven't yet given up hope," she told reporters. "We need to move toward each other," she said.

At a late-night press conference early Monday, a visibly tired Straw had said that in theory the deadline for an agreement is 5 p.m. Monday. "That's still not impossible, but it could slip. Nothing is certain," he said.

Plassnik refused to bow under the pressure of being confronted by all her fellow European Union members.

"We are not afraid of difficult situations," she told reporters

after another round of talks with Straw. "There are limits, and we are about to explore them now."

In Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul huddled with his advisors awaiting news that never came that Austria had ceded ground. Despite its EU ambitions, Turkey has threatened to turn its back if Vienna gets its way.

AFP

## Cleric stopped Charles from having royal wedding

LONDON—THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury rejected the idea of a church wedding for the divorced Prince Charles and his longtime companion Camilla Parker Bowles, according to official royal biographer Jonathan Dimbleby.

Archbishop Rowan Williams said religious leaders would find a church ceremony unacceptable, Dimbleby told the British Broadcasting Corp.'s "Panorama" program, to be broadcast Sunday night. Transcripts were distributed to the media on Saturday.

"As I understand it, Lambeth Palace (office of the archbishop) said that it would not be possible," Dimbleby said. "I think that is because the archbishop was very aware of feeling, not least within the church and within the congregation" against a church wedding.

The royal couple, both of whom had been married before, wed in a civil ceremony at Windsor Guildhall on April 9.

Granting a church wedding could have caused an uproar within the Anglican Church and trouble for the archbishop, Dimbleby said.

"I think he took the view that there would be too many distressed communicants inside the Anglican Church for it to be a good idea," he said.

Dimbleby also told the program that Parker Bowles, who became Duchess of Cornwall on her marriage, will officially become queen when Charles accedes to the throne.

"Formally, there is no doubt that Camilla will be queen," he said.

However, Camilla has made it clear that when her husband becomes king she wants to be called the Princess Consort, not queen.

"A bit more clarity would have been better," Dimbleby said, "but I think under the circumstances you can understand that what they wanted to get across was one simple message: she wants to be known as Princess Consort when that time arrives."

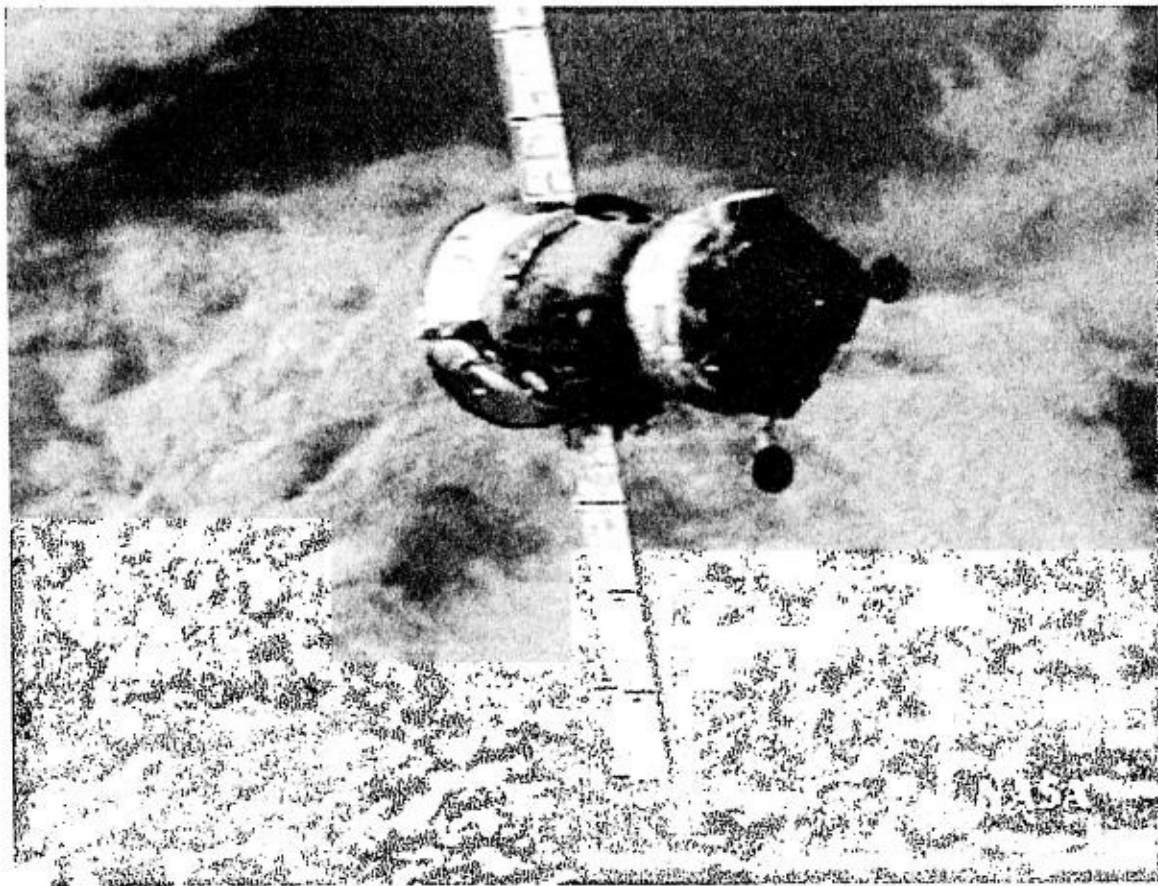
Dimbleby said he thought Britons would eventually warm to Camilla, still reviled by some as the woman who broke up Charles' marriage to the late Princess Diana—and might one day accept her as queen.

"We've seen massive shifts in public opinion, from her, Camilla, being regarded as the other woman, through to her being seen now as a very attractive spouse who makes the prince happy, who appears in public, who is gracious, who joins in ... who communicates very effectively," Dimbleby said.

"And therefore, it's quite conceivable that public opinion will say, 'Yeah, why shouldn't she be queen, she's done a lot of good public service over the intervening years between the marriage and whenever this day arrives,'" he added.

A spokesperson for Charles' Clarence House office said Lambeth Palace and Clarence House considered several wedding options, and agreed that a civil ceremony followed by a prayer service was the best.

AP



A SOYUZ TMA spacecraft carrying American Greg Olsen, the third private citizen in space, Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and NASA astronaut William McArthur approaches the orbiting laboratory for scheduled docking Oct. 3.

## American 'space tourist' reaches ISS

MOSCOW—THE RUSSIAN SOYUZ rocket carrying American millionaire "space tourist" Greg Olsen together with a Russian cosmonaut and an American astronaut docked with the International Space Station (ISS) Monday, Russia's Space Flight Control Center said.

The Soyuz TMA-7 capsule docked with the ISS after taking off from the Baikonur space center on Saturday.

Olsen, 60, had paid \$20 million to become the third private citizen in space, following in the footsteps of American Dennis Tito in 2001 and South African Mark Shuttleworth in 2002.

He was accompanied to the ISS by Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and US astronaut William McArthur, who were due to take over from Russian Sergei Krikalyov and American John Phillips.

Olsen is expected to return to earth with the latter two on Oct. 11, leaving Tokarev and McArthur to spend a total of six months aboard the ISS.

The ISS is a joint project between the United States, Canada, Japan, Russia and the 11-nation European Space Agency.

Russia currently has a monopoly on ferrying people to the station however due to the grounding of the US space shuttle program earlier this year because of a technical problem concerning the insulation of the booster rocket that caused the 2003 breakup of the shuttle Columbia.

Carrying "tourists" into space has become a profitable sideline for the Russian space program.

Olsen, who heads a New Jersey-based firm that makes electronic sensors for military and civilian use, is due to help out with scientific work aboard the ISS, and to test products produced by his company.

AFP

## Convicted US soldier details worse abuse at Ghraib

WASHINGTON—A US SOLDIER convicted of abusing Iraqi prisoners said, in remarks made public late Sunday, she knew of "worse things" happening at Abu Ghraib and insisted military commanders were fully aware of what was going on in Iraq's infamous jail.

The comments, made by Private First Class Lynndie England in her first post-court-martial interview, contradicted assertions by top Pentagon officials that a small group of out-of-control soldiers were responsible for abuse at Abu Ghraib, and that no matter how repulsive that mistreatment was, it did not amount to torture.

England, who became the face of the scandal because of a photograph of her holding a naked prisoner by a leash, was sentenced last Tuesday to three years in prison and ordered to be dishonorably discharged from the Army after a military jury found her guilty of mistreating prisoners and committing an indecent act.

The trial capped a damaging scandal that erupted in 2004, following publication of pictures that showed Abu Ghraib inmates piled up naked on the floor in front of US soldiers, cowering in front of snarling military dogs, chained to beds in stress positions and forced to stand naked in front of female guards.

But England, appearing on NBC's "Dateline" program, said the pictures did not convey the full extent of the abuse that took place in the cell block.

"I know worse things were happening over there," admitted the 22-year-old convict.

She said one night she heard bloodcurdling screams coming from the block's shower room, where nonmilitary interrogators had taken an Arab detainee.

"They had the shower on to muffle it, but it wasn't helping," she recalled. "They never screamed like that when we were humiliating. But this guy was like screaming bloody murder. I mean it still haunts me I can still hear it just like it happened yesterday."

The interrogators were not identified, but several investigations into the abuse have disclosed that Central Intelligence Agency operatives worked at Abu Ghraib alongside US military intelligence, mining for useful information.

A total of nine low-ranking soldiers have now been convicted or voluntarily pleaded guilty in the scandal that has sparked condemnation of the US around the world.

But a Defense Department probe has cleared all top US commanders of criminal responsibility in the matter.

Taking issue with that finding, England argued stripping prisoners naked and handcuffing them to steel bars was part of an officially-sanctioned strategy designed to soften inmates before interrogation and make them more cooperative.

AFP

## Merkel widens lead in final German poll

BERLIN—GERMANY'S CONSERVATIVE Christian Democrats embark on another week of political horsetrading on Monday boosted by an election win in Dresden which they hope will tip the balance in their favor following last month's inconclusive general election.

Angela Merkel's conservatives widened their three-seat advantage in parliament over Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) by one seat, election officials said based on a provisional ballot count.

The results of Sunday's mean the Christian Democrats (CDU) will hold 226 seats in the new Bundestag lower house of parliament versus 222 for the Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats.

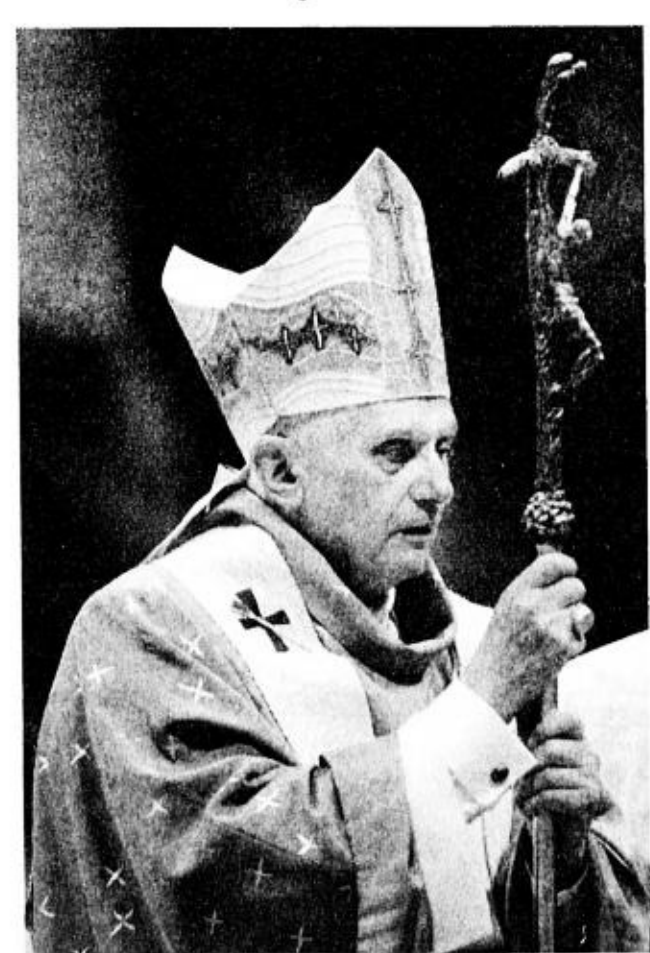
Germany held its general election two weeks ago but the vote was postponed in Dresden's first district due to the death of a candidate.

The country has been at a political impasse since the inconclusive Sept. 18 poll, with both Schroeder and Merkel claiming a governing mandate due to the knife-edge result of the vote.

CDU general secretary Volker Kauder told public television the Dresden election would strengthen the conservatives' hand in the negotiations.

AFP

## Vatican synod to touch on abortion, divorce



POPE Benedict XVI celebrating the opening Mass of the synod in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI opened a three-week meeting of over 250 Roman Catholic bishops at the Vatican on Sunday, telling the synod it was "hypocritical" to exclude religion from public life.

The 78-year-old Pontiff's first synod since his April 19 election will tackle the problems facing the Roman Catholic Church at the beginning of his pontificate and will focus largely on theological issues linked to the Eucharist, the Christian service of Holy Communion.

But more importantly for the wider world, it will also touch on thorny social problems like abortion and divorce, as well as attendance at Sunday Mass and ecumenism.

"A tolerance which allows God as a private opinion but which excludes Him from public life, from the reality of the world and our lives, is not tolerance but hypocrisy," the Pope said in the homily he gave at the synod's opening mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

"When man makes himself the only master of the world and master of himself, justice cannot exist," the Pontiff added. "Then, arbitrariness, power and interests rule."

Citing the bible, the German Pontiff warned that people who ignored God would be judged by Him and posed a threat to "the Church in Europe, Europe itself and the West."

The synod, which brings together 252 bishops from 118 countries, opened at 9:00 a.m. without the participation of four Chinese bishops whom Benedict XVI had asked to take part.

The bishops—three from China's state-controlled Church, which is not recognized by the Vatican, and one from the underground Catholic Church, which is persecuted by Beijing—were not authorized by Beijing to attend the meeting.

The 11th synod meeting, which will run until Oct. 23, opened with prayers for the former pope, John Paul II, who died six months ago, on April 2.

"John Paul II organized this synod before his death on the theme of 'the Eucharist, which is the source and pinnacle of life and the Church's mission in the world,'"

AFP

# Nobel Literature Prize: Could a new twist win over tradition?

By Nina Larson

STOCKHOLM—THE NOBEL LITERATURE Prize has for decades gone to fiction writers and poets, but just days before this year's winner is revealed some say the prestigious prize could be awarded within a different genre altogether.

While the list of usual suspects appears to be largely the same as in recent years, featuring US novelists Philip Roth and Joyce Carol Oates, Ismael Kadare of Albania, Israeli Amos Oz and Swedish poet Tomas Transtromer, the Swedish Academy might just have a surprise in store this year.

"The Academy has spoken of wanting to broaden the prize, which could open the door for instance for literary journalists like Polish Ryszard Kapuscinski," said Eva Bonnier, head of Sweden's Bonnier publishing house.

"Kapuscinski is a possibility. It would be very exciting if the Academy decides to go in that direction," agreed Ola Larsson, a freelance literary critic who writes for Sweden's paper of record Dagens Nyheter.

He acknowledged however that "there are no clear-cut signs that this will happen," pointing out that the Academy has been tight-lipped about this year's laureate ahead of the announcement, expected on Oct. 6 or the

Thursday after.

If the Academy does decide to embrace a new genre, Larsson said a prominent literary critic might also win.

"Someone like Roland Barthes, Maurice Blanchot or Susan Sontag. But they are all dead now (and the prize cannot be awarded posthumously), so I'm not quite sure who would be the most appropriate candidate today."

Head of the Swedish Academy Horace Engdahl acknowledged that "it is important that the prize develops as literature develops."

And if the award ends up going to a nonfiction writer it would not be the first time, he said, pointing out that Alfred Nobel did not

specify in his will that it had to go to a fiction writer.

Since the first Nobel Prize was awarded in 1901, several nonfiction writers and nonpoets have won, including Bertrand Russell in 1950 for his philosophical writings and Winston Churchill three years later for his historical texts.

"It's been a long time since the prize has gone to someone like that. Esthetic literature has dominated because, I think, the modernist trend has been to frown upon scientific literature," Engdahl told AFP, adding that it might be time to reevaluate the scope of the award.

Once prone to leaks, the Academy has in recent years been careful not to let the laureate's name slip out in advance.

"We have a very strict discipline now. No documents leave the building and the (Academy) members are not allowed to discuss the choice by e-mail or with members of their family. So far this year, I have not seen any sign that there is a leak," Engdahl said.

As an indication that the system works, controversial Austrian author Elfriede Jelinek's name was not even mentioned among the possible laureates before she won the prize last year.

"I think this year's choice will be a much more expected choice than last year. Jelinek was extremely unexpected," observed Svante Weyler, the former head of Sweden's largest publishing house, Norstedt.

"The Academy tends to like to mix the expected with the unexpected choices," he said, putting his money on the likes of Roth, Oz and Algerian novelist, poet and filmmaker Assia Djebar.

Other clear candidates, according to Bonnier, include Dutch-language authors Cees Nooteboom and Hugo Claus, Somalia's Nuruddin Farah and Nigerian poet and novelist Ben Okri.

Turkish author Orhan Pamuk, who was recently charged in Turkey with "public denigration of the Turkish identity" for remarks he made about the country's massacre of Armenians, might also win the award. Weyler said.

AFP



# Ethics and Fiscal Governance: Keys to Our Nation's Progress

Speech delivered by Rep. Herminio G. Teves of Negros Oriental  
before the Convention of

the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI)  
and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)



*(Excerpts of Introductory Remarks: Representative Herminio G. Teves is the oldest member of the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms. At 85, he remains energetic, indefatigable and passionate about the causes that he champions. His attendance in House plenary and committee deliberations is almost perfect and unmatched. He is actively involved in efforts to build up revenue collection. As chairman of the House special committee on globalization, he is also engaged in international trade issues. He is president and chief executive officer of Herminio Teves and Co. Inc., a sugar mill operator in his home province. He is the third biggest individual taxpayer in his province. His company is also the largest corporate taxpayer in Negros Oriental, and one of the few firms in the country with a profit-sharing scheme for employees. He is happily married, proud father to eight children, grandfather to 26 children and great grandfather to 21 children.)*

Mrs. Simeona De Guzman, president of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Ms. Lita Aguirre, chairperson of this year's convention, officers and members of ACPACI and PICPA, guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I am deeply honored to address you all today. I applaud your adopting the theme, "Keys to Our Nation's Progress: Operational Efficiency and Resiliency" in this year's convention.

Our country is in zero hour, politically and economically. In the last few months, we, in Congress, practically did no new legislation, as various sectors sought congressional hearings on the jueteng payola and the alleged presidential electoral fraud (brought about by the Garci tapes).

We also had to deal with the demand from diverse sectors as well as several members of Congress for the President to step down, the filing of the impeachment complaint, and finally the grave allegations of the so-called Hyatt 10 led by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The House of Representatives ruled that the impeachment complaint was insufficient in form and substance, thus putting the matter to rest.

However, sectors and groups opposed to the administration continue to clamor for truth and justice. Had the impeachment complaint reached the Senate, who could truthfully say that the Senators, acting as jurors, would be righteous in seeking the truth?

## What is truth, justice and morality?

We have a rich anthology of cases reinforcing the fact that we sacrifice truth, justice and morality to promote vested interests.

History tells us that justice was sacrificed to spread Christianity when military expeditions disguised as crusades were used to suppress the Muslims in the 13th century.

To achieve progress, the Americans drove the Indian tribes into the mountains. The Americans also imported slaves from Africa.

The Americans declared Jose Rizal as our national hero, but critical Filipino historians have challenged this.

In search of weapons of mass destruction, the Americans invaded Iraq.

Up to now, nobody knows who masterminded the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

President Estrada was forced out of office for allegedly receiving P130 million from jueteng lords. To date, it remains unclear who were the jueteng lords who supposedly gave the P130 million. It has also not been established whether the money, in fact, came from jueteng lords, or from Ilocos Sur's treasury.

Truth is only acknowledged and accepted when it suits what we want to hear as the truth. But then, in a Bible class, a student was asked to differentiate faith from truth. The answer given was an example of a Filipino sailor who spends most of his time overseas, and who, with faith, accepts a newborn as his. Yet, the sailor's wife -- the newborn's mother -- is actually the only person who knows the truth as to who the father is. And only God knows the absolute truth.

Today armed retaliations and even state-sponsored killings are done in the name of justice.

## Why is our economy sinking?

Our country is not yet a banana republic, but the economy is sinking fast, largely on account of the crippling national government debt. In 1986, the public debt was P936 billion. This increased to P1.1 trillion in 1993, and doubled to P2.2 trillion in 2000. As of June 2005, the public debt had ballooned to P3.89 trillion, meaning that each Filipino now owes about P45,700 to creditors.

Congress earmarked P301.7 billion, or 34 percent of this year's budget, to cover the interest payments on the public debt. The latest figures from the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) show that actual interest payments have already reached P313.393 billion, or over 35 percent of the 2005 budget. The allocation for interest payments next year is P340 billion, or 35 percent of the proposed budget.

## The growing public debt is due to deficit-spending

Government's deficit rapidly grew from P50 billion or 1.9 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1998 to P211 billion or 5.4 percent of GDP in 2002. Last year, the deficit was P187 billion, or about four percent of GDP. This year's projected deficit is P180 billion, or 3.4 percent of GDP. In the proposed 2006 budget, the DBCC plans to limit the deficit to P125 billion, or just

two percent of GDP.

## Deficient tax collection is the main cause of deficit-spending

In the mid-1990s, we achieved fiscal surplus. In 1997, our revenue effort was 19.4 percent of GDP. It then steadily deteriorated to just 13.8 percent of GDP in 2003. Other countries in the region have far more efficient tax collections. Malaysia and Vietnam have an average revenue effort of 22.7 percent of GDP. Singapore has a revenue effort of 20.6 percent. Indonesia and Thailand have 19.1 percent and 16.6 percent, respectively.

## Ways to improve tax collection efficiency

Instituting revenue enhancement mechanisms are absolutely necessary for us to plug the loopholes in our tax regime, and for us to collect the highest potential tax revenues. Efficiency, a core message of your chosen theme, is imperative. **Absolute transparency in tax payments**

Section 71 of the Tax Code states that: "After the assessment shall have been made, as provided in this Title, the returns, together with any corrections thereof which may have been made by the (internal revenue) Commissioner, shall be filed in the Office of the Commissioner and shall constitute public records."

The same Tax Code, however, also provides for the confidentiality of tax payments and records. Sections 270 and 278 stipulate stiff penalties for the unlawful divulgence of trade secrets such as the tax payments of corporations.

Secrecy is a big hindrance to improved tax collection. Since 1998, this Representation has been pushing for a bill that would delete Sections 270 and 278, and amend Section 71. The House eventually approved the bill. Sadly, the bill never reached first base in the Senate. In short, no hearing was ever conducted by the Senate ways and means committee.

The wealthy and rich vehemently opposed the bill, saying they would be exposed to kidnappers. Yet the wealthy and rich do not seem to mind having lavish lifestyles -- residing in posh enclaves, wining and dining in exclusive clubs, sending their kids to expensive schools and driving flashy cars (and attracting kidnappers). In reality, however, the wealthy and rich simply fear being ridiculed or embarrassed once their income tax payments are exposed -- because they have been paying miserably taxes.

Every first week of April, my accountant would ask me how much individual and corporate income taxes I am willing to pay. Is this the prevailing practice in accounting firms?

## Presidential Task Force on Revenue Projection and Collection

It has been my lifelong advocacy to help find ways to improve revenue collection so that government would have adequate funds to support development programs.

Thus, in February 2003, this Representation wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo, proposing the creation of a presidential task force that would project the full revenue potential from each type of tax. The task force would be composed of the heads of the Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), National Statistics Office (NSO) and Maritime Industry Authority as members. The idea is to gather statistics and estimate the maximum potential collections per type of tax.

Another team would audit actual revenue collections per type of tax, measured against the greatest potential collections. This separate team would be composed of the heads of the DOF, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) and the Commission on Audit (COA).

Last month, I sent another letter to the President, proposing that the BOC be required to submit annual reports on the volume and value of imports made through a) letters of credit; b) no-dollar importation; and c) consignment.

The purpose is to establish a system that would curb both outright and technical smuggling. Outright smuggling is rampant in agricultural and fuel products. Technical smuggling or the misdeclaration or undervaluation of imports involves other products.

For no-dollar imports and those on consignment, I recommended that 15 days prior to the arrival of shipments, importers should be required to report to the DOF, BOC, and the Bangko Sen-

tral ng Pilipinas such details as the port of origin, type and dollar value of shipment and source of foreign exchange.

## Potential revenue study per type of tax

**Individual income tax.** There are 14 million Filipino families. Out of this number, 10 million do not pay income taxes because they are either below the poverty line (six million) or they earn modest incomes that are exempt from taxation (four million). Thus, we have only four million potential individual income taxpayers (as of 2004). That we have four-million potential individual taxpayers is also substantiated by the over three million privately owned motor vehicle owners registered with the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

The maximum potential revenue from individual income tax collections is P150 billion. But only P95.8 billion was actually collected in 2004.

When Cesar Virata was finance secretary, he declared that 90 percent of our country's wealth was controlled by 10 percent of the people. Recently, the World Bank Development Report indicated that since 1996, over 52 percent of the capitalization of the local stock market has been controlled by just 10 families.

BIR records on individual income tax collections show that workers with compensation income and on automatic withholding are the biggest individual income taxpayers.

In year 2004, a total of 194,147 employed individuals on automatic withholding paid a combined P84.29 billion in income taxes. This excludes those who filed via BIR's substituted filing mechanism.

On the other hand, a total of 291,601 self-employed individuals paid only P4.85 billion in combined income taxes, plus P7.56 billion that was withheld at source.

Workers with compensation income shouldered 83.5 percent of all individual income tax collections, while the self-employed assumed a measly 12.3 percent.

To increase the number of individual income taxpayers, the DOF's Bureau of Local Government Finance has been gathering data from the local government treasurers and assessors. The names of business establishments and self-employed individuals, their locally reported sales and incomes as well as the assessed values of their properties are now being gathered. The LTO is also being tapped for the list of motor vehicle owners. These data would be given to the BIR for distribution to district offices.

**Corporate income tax.** SEC records in 2004 show that a total of 304,070 corporations are registered. Yet, only 115,582 corporations or 38 percent of the registered firms actually filed income tax returns. Worse, only 70,434 corporations or 23.16 percent those registered actually paid income taxes amounting to P131.2 billion in 2004.

The DOF has asked the SEC for a list of all corporations, to include their location, primary purpose of business activity, capitalization, incorporators and major stockholders. This list would be given to BIR, also for distribution to district offices.

**Value-added tax (VAT).** The VAT is most controversial and misunderstood type of tax, where the consumers or end users ultimately absorb the full burden of the 10 to 12 percent tax. Consumers even end up assuming the VAT paid on capital expenditures or investments.

## Abuses in the VAT

### 1. Input tax declarations

Many industries have been declaring negative VAT for several years, with their declared input VAT always exceeding their declared output VAT.

### 2. VAT-exempt entities

Section 109 provides for transactions that are VAT-exempt when it comes to their sales of goods and services. Exempt entities are not supposed to be VAT-exempt on their purchases of VATable goods and services. For lack of an applicable BIR memorandum circular, all sellers to VAT-exempt entities were allowed to deduct from their total VATable sales all sales to exempt entities. In 2004, exempt sales volume was P471.2 billion, or 11.7 percent of total sales. In the first half of 2005, exempt sales volume was P234.7 billion, or 15.53 percent of total sales.

### 3. VAT zero-rated sales

3.1 All sales of goods and services by duly accredited zero-rated VAT entities are not VATable.

3.2 Unit production cost of goods and ser-

vices is inclusive of VAT. However, firms automatically deduct the total input VAT from the output VAT derived from sales to exempt and zero-rated entities. This favors the vested interest of firms because their output VAT is reduced at the expense of government.

3.3 Purchase of goods and services from VATable firms are subject to refund pursuant to Sections 112 and 113 of the Tax Code, and not automatic deduction as what is being practiced. Refunds should be limited to goods purchased good that are actually used in the production of goods and services by said firm.

3.4 In 2004, sellers deducted from their VATable sales a total of P699.1-billion worth of zero-rated sales, or 17.31 percent of all their sales. In the first half of 2005, sellers deducted P294.1-billion worth of zero-rated sales, or 19.45 percent of all their sales.

## 4. Non-payment of VAT by toll companies.

Toll fees are subject to VAT and are a huge source of uncollected VAT. Sadly, toll companies are not paying VAT because the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has not issued an order directing the toll operators to collect VAT. In fact, the TRB did not include the VAT in the computation of toll rates. VAT collections from toll operators could reach as much as P90 million monthly, based on the aggregate monthly toll revenues of P900 million.

To protect government's interest, the BIR and the DOF should quickly promulgate a memorandum circular that would put in check all forms of VAT avoidance and abuses in the implementation of the VAT.

In-depth studies must be conducted to also improve gathering of the following: percentage tax (on common carriers, water transport, bank gross receipts, etc.); documentary stamp tax; excise tax; bank withholding tax on interest earnings; amusement tax; and franchise tax.

## Conclusion

We desperate need more efficient tax collection through stronger enforcement and compliance. We have to raise tax collection efficiency to 90 percent of potential revenues from all types of taxes. We have to plug all loopholes. And this is where all of you, as practitioners, should come in and get actively involved.

As the experts in taxation, government needs you in building up revenue-generation. Let us be one in moving this country forward, in achieving fiscal prosperity and economic progress.

The projected GDP for 2006 is P5.3 trillion. Restoring our revenue effort to the same level as it was in 1997 -- 19.4 percent of GDP -- would mean P1.16 trillion in revenue collections. This amount is actually enough to cover 100-percent of the proposed P1.05 trillion budget for 2006. Thus, we can actually achieve a balanced budget by being as efficient as we were in 1997 in terms of tax collection.

In times of war, we demonstrate our patriotism by shedding blood and dying for our country. In times of peace, we should also show our love of country by paying the right amount of taxes.

I have no doubt that with Congress, BIR, BOC, DOF and you, certified public accountants working together on these proposals, government can fix the deficit problem, not in 2008, but as early as next year.

Congress has provided the environment for improved tax collection by approving significant new legislation. We restructured the excise tax on so-called "sin" products, adopted a system of reward and punishment for BIR and BOC personnel, and expanded the list of goods and services covered by VAT. The BIR, for its part, has set up a computer system to track down the under-declaration and mis-declaration of sales and purchases through the VAT-RELIEF system -- thanks to former Deputy Commissioner Lita Aguirre. Similarly, the DOF is pursuing its campaign to run after tax evaders. These efforts, however, would be incomplete without your cooperation. So I urge you all, our CPA-friends, to support fully the efforts of the BIR and help ensure the proper payment of taxes, through, as your theme suggests, "Operational efficiency and resiliency."

Once again thank you and mabuhay kayong lahat!



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# OPINION

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## Antidote

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1916, THE SENATE OF the Philippines has always had a confrontational attitude, and history, toward the chief executive. Regardless of whether the chief executive was known as governor-general or president of the Philippines, the inclination of the upper house of Congress has always been to challenge Malacañang.

EDITORIAL Malacañang has not always taken this sitting down. And there have been times when the Senate was a pliable plaything in the hands of the chief executive. In fact, until recently, the House of Representatives, which is traditionally the bastion of subservience to the chief executive and the bulwark of conservatism, has taken on a more dynamic character. In large part, this can be attributed to the sectoral—and later, party-list—representation in the Lower House.

President Manuel L. Quezon, who was the first and longest-serving Senate president, began and exemplified the tradition of the Senate being perpetually on the offensive against the chief executive, so long as that executive was a foreigner. When he became the first Filipino to be elected as chief executive, the country had a unicameral legislature and he proceeded to manipulate the National Assembly so that its first speaker, Gil Montilla, was turned into a decorative figure with very little power. Quezon established an office in the legislature and effectively acted as both president and speaker. But by the late 1930s, this consummate politician became tired of virtually serving as both president and speaker, and began to return power to his next hand-picked speaker, Jose Yulo. Then he proposed amendments to the Constitution not only to extend his own term but to reestablish the Senate.

Quezon argued before other politicians that a unicameral assembly was susceptible to radical infiltration, and an upper body was needed as a conservative countervailing force as well as a training ground for future presidents. To the public, he said unicameral assembly was by nature irresponsible and likely to be either absolutely subservient to the chief executive or completely obstructionist. In reality, the opposite happened: we have seen a lower house that has traditionally been conservative, and an upper house that has traditionally been more dynamic. By such machinations do politicians promote what they think will be a statesmanlike development through political means.

Today the Senate, after having been quite cooperative with Malacañang, has been turning increasingly hostile to the President, while the House, which in the past was slightly less cooperative because of the dominant Lakas-CMD and its coalition partner's distrust of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has become her biggest and most reliable institutional ally. But alliance, in any context, has its price, and the price for the House's alliance with the President, is the eventual reduction of the powers of the presidency.

Ms Arroyo is not the first president to challenge a Senate president, and Franklin Drilon is not the first Senate president to face the wrath of a chief executive. The worst examples of this kind of political animosity were those between Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and President Carlos P. Garcia, and Senate President Ferdinand Marcos and President Diosdado Macapagal.

We are reliving history, in a sense. The real question is, which of the two contending leaders will be more adept at harnessing public opinion, at using legal and political processes to block the other's maneuvers and, most of all, which of them can best win and retain support from among the senators.

The traditional response of a Senate president to such a challenge has been to call the President's bluff, and submit his leadership to revalidation by his peers. Can Drilon muster the numbers to make such a dramatic move? Ms Arroyo, whom he has asked to "make the ultimate sacrifice," has every right to ask him to do the same thing. But unlike the president of the Republic, a Senate president who resigns can have his resignation rejected by his peers and thus claim an unequivocal victory.

Drilon is no risk taker, and perhaps he has yet to do the math. But there is a solution to the challenge from the President. Can Drilon summon the courage to take the political antidote to the Palace's recent venomous attacks?



## Past tense, present tense

### VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—MODERN-DAY FILIPINOS take for granted the scalping of our forests. Thus, your mind boggles when you see the lush flowers and trees that blanket this state. "So, this is how it could have been for our grandchildren," you mutter to yourself.

The 400-mile long and 50-mile wide Sierra Nevada ranges, for example, hold one of the most diverse temperate conifer forests on earth. Present tense.

Giant sequoia here are the stuff of legend. The most massive trees in the world, sequoias can tower up to 273 feet, are over 36 feet in diameter, and 3,200 years old or so. Five conifers—ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir and white fir—mix in the Sierra. Foresters tell us that over half of California's estimated 7,000 species of plants can be found in the Sierra Nevada. There are 200 rare species with 400 Sierra "endemics" (i.e. they are found nowhere else in the world).

The Philippines was also home once to the most diverse tropical rain forests in the world. Past tense.

In 1595, about 92 percent of the land had forests. That's down to 18 percent today. Mahogany has become the stuff of legend because it's been logged to near-extinction. "Endemics" like the Cebu cinnamon are hard to come by today, a San Carlos University study has noted.

No one has the exact death toll. But thousands died in Southern Leyte, Aurora, Quezon and recent Bulacan flash floods. They were victims of deforestation, of floods and mudslides stemming from damage inflicted on hillsides and river beds years before.

"Given the human suffering, it is politically more palatable for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to blame businessmen engaged in illegal logging, rather than government officials for taking bribes to allow them to do it, or her own reluctance to tackle population growth," the Economist notes.

Politicians of every stripe, like Sen. Aquilino Pimental, dusted off demands for logging bans. Such bans are only one of a number of policies, Food and Agriculture Organization

regional forester Patrick Durst sensibly noted. Experience in Asia shows that log bans must be complemented with measures, like economic incentives to replant and conserve, the United Nations forester notes. Otherwise, they only embed persistent shortages.

Whether in the Sierra Nevada or our Sierra Madre, the need is not for more rhetoric, but for overall conservation policies relentlessly implemented.

In California, a century of intensive logging, mining and grazing left only 25 percent "intact" natural habitat. About 60 percent mixed conifer forests were altered. National Parks at Lassen, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon harbor the largest remaining blocks of intact forests.

National Parks now are highly protected. Recent fire management policies help restore successional processes. Wilderness areas, usually located at higher elevations, are protected from commercial logging.

Can we say the same thing for the Philippines?

Take a trip to Butuan City in Northern Mindanao. Located northeast of the Agusan Valley, this burg had a thriving commerce with Chinese traders by the 10th century. And it lays proud claim to being the site of the first Easter Mass offered in the Philippines by the first Spanish missionaries.

It also can claim Extortion Avenue. To see that, tag along with small farmers when they bring logs they've raised to Butuan. An inter-Asian group of foresters did that. Here's how they described it:

"Check points stud the route that tree farmers pass to reach Butuan processing plants. These are manned by environment depart-

ment people, national police, soldiers, municipal and barangay officials, private land owners, transportation and communication (DOTC) and the New People's Army.

"All take their cut. It's either pay or suffer de-

lays.

"DOTC [personnel] stop the trucks on excuses such as checking tail lights, etc. DENR says they're there to stop the transport of illegal logs. Of course, they don't."

"The illegals who cut lauan and other species from natural forests make advance 'arrangements' and are waved through. The small tree farmers are harassed all along the way."

"Each checkpoint collects between P50 to P250 per truckload. Private interviews show average 'tong' per truckload is about P2,500 given the numerous checkpoints."

"About 100 truckloads pass the checkpoints nightly, although the law bans such trips. Multiply P2,500 by 100 trucks. That's the money that were extorted from tree farmers."

"Satellite mall settlements mushroomed near checkpoints. When a truck approaches, men from each agency swoop in like vultures. We saw one such incident. Mulcters sprinted toward the truck like hungry dogs. Seeing the voracious look on their faces made me want to puke."

"Why all these regulations? The trees are grown on private land. They should be treated like any other crop. If checkpoints tried the same thing with rice, corn, copra (etc.), they'd have a revolution on their hands."

"Years of campaigning by NGOs and others for imposition of log bans have conditioned the public mind to perceive any timber that moves along the road as some sort of contraband."

"The president of the tree farmers association is thoroughly discouraged. He (and others) are planning to quit the tree farming business altogether and start planting oil palm or rubber. Can't say that I blame them."

It's the timber industry version of *jueteng*. Only the TV cameras are not that for our solemn to mug into. And neither are the trees.

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## Blood of heroes

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



which came in the form of John Paul II telling her to go forth and rectify. Or so she said: John Paul II was too dead to deny it.

Maybe the spirit, if not the blood, of Andres Bonifacio sparks her mind? If I recall my history right, Bonifacio was a poor man, which is why he is called "The Great Plebeian," who enriched this country by founding the Katipunan, the organization that led the revolt against Spain. I do not recall what nom de guerre he used in that clandestine organization (they all had one). He married the fiercely loyal and brave Gregoria de Jesus (nom de guerre Manuela Gonzaga) who left us with the famous warning after her husband was executed by Aguinaldo's hatchet men that the truth can never be hidden, it has a way of surfacing like the bloated bodies of the drowned.

I know that GMA's father was called "the poor boy from Lubao." I know that he stopped being a poor boy with much help from his wife long before he became president. I know that GMA was never the poor daughter of the poor boy from Lubao, other than in the non-literal sense of the word "poor." I know that she married one Mike Arroyo, and though they belong to a completely open organization called government, Arroyo uses the nom-de-pillage (sounds Frenchy) "Jose Pidal." Together they have impoverished the nation by founding the Kawatan, with much help from the Firm.

If Both Glo and Mike have heroically done anything, it is to try to prove Gregoria wrong. They have undertaken to show that the truth may be kept at the bottom of the sea forever, aided by greedy allies, particularly in Congress, and fascist-minded rah-rah boys,

particularly ex-activists. Last we saw, Glo was busy ordering her military officers to ask her permission to speak out against her. As a non-elected president, Glo, or Glue, has come to be known as "The Great Hindi Yan."

Maybe the spirit, if not the blood, of Jose Rizal animates GMA's heart? If I recall my history right, Rizal was a man of uncommon wisdom, and generosity. The story is told that when he was a kid, he lost one of his slippers in a river. To make sure it wasn't an entire loss, he threw the other slipper into the water so that whoever found those slippers could have a pair.

If GMA loses one of her slippers in a river, she will have the entire river quarried and dredged to find it. I take that from the way she has responded to her loss of trust and credibility in the eyes of the public. The simplest and wisest thing to do is to resign and make sure the next leader would have everything he or she needs to do a better job. Instead, she has: bought congressmen to kill the impeachment, banned rallies, ordered absolute obedience from her people, just to keep herself in power. She would rather throw Pidal into the river first before her other slipper. Of course, that would help, too. But that can't be Rizal's blood pulsing in her veins.

Maybe Apolinario Mabini's spirit, if not his blood, has managed to suffuse her being? Well, Mabini was paralytic only in his legs, he was sublime in his mind. He once wrote his political version of the Ten Commandments, calling it the "Decalogue." His seventh commandment is exceptionally prescient:

"Thou shalt not recognize in thy country the authority of any person who has not been elected by thee and thy countrymen; for authority emanates from God, and as God speaks in the conscience of every man, the person designated and proclaimed by the conscience of a whole people is the only one who can use true authority."

Is it possible the blood of heroes runs instead in the veins of Francisco Gudiño and Alexander Balutan?



# Senate trial—even without the 79 House votes

HAVE FORMER PRESIDENT CORY AQUINO AND Senate President Franklin Drilon been conspiring to bring down Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago alleged? Yes and no, depending on what is meant. I cannot believe the allegation that the two intend to eliminate GMA physically as Santiago has insinuated. But are they conspiring to oust her from the presidency? I think this has been obvious since that bloody Friday of July 8 when both of them publicly asked GMA to resign. In fact, as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye asserts, there seems to be incontrovertible evidence that Drilon plotted GMA's ouster for weeks before that date, together with the "Hyatt 10." Bunye says Drilon had a hand in convincing GMA and former Justice Jose Vitug, her legal adviser, to admit her phone calls to an unnamed Comelec official and apologize for that "lapse in judgment." Drilon had argued it was a minor thing. I understand that Dinky Soliman also helped convince GMA.

That admission proved to be a major disaster for GMA, for it was quickly twisted by the opposition to mean she owned up to cheating. Apparently it was all premeditated on the part of those who were once close to her, including Drilon and Soliman, but who were to turn traitor. Later Rep. Luis Villafuerte related to this columnist how upset he was when he heard that GMA was about to own up to a lapse in judgment. He tried to contact her from Naga City for one whole day to convince her not to do so, but he was able to talk to her only after it was all over.

Some news reports indicated that Cory Aquino ordered Drilon to initiate the Senate investigations on various issues after the House had junked the impeachment complaint, and after the Department of Agrarian Reform had ruled against the stock agreement in Hacienda Luisita. I don't buy that story. I think it's the other way around: the Senate chief, together with former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, the leader of the treasonous Cabinet gang, convinced Ms Aquino to join their plot to oust

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



GMA during several visits to her home. Drilon and Aquino have been very close ever since she plucked him from private law practice and named him labor secretary in 1987. He is her godson in marriage and wields considerable influence over Aquino.

After GMA rejected the call for her resignation and allied her forces with the help of Speaker Jose de Venecia, she challenged her enemies to bring their charges to the House. But when the impeachment effort was junked by the House majority after the opposition failed to muster the 79 votes needed to elevate it to the Senate, this frustrated the combined forces of the Aquino-Drilon-Hyatt 10 and the original opposition allied with Estrada and Panfilo Lacson. The combined opposition led by Aquino and Susan Roces took to the streets to protest the House decision. Aquino also made the rounds of the schools. But they couldn't provoke the kind of public outrage they had hoped for. So they brought their campaign to the Senate.

As House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles put it, the Senate is now raking up all the issues her foes would raised against GMA had the impeachment reached that chamber, in what Miriam Santiago calls a "serial impeachment." This is the Senate impeachment trial—without the 79 votes! The opposition's *delicadeza* after that inglorious House defeat is all gone. It has no more pretensions.

Are Aquino and Drilon in a conspiracy to bring down GMA? It's clear as daylight. Is it illegal? Trying to provoke public outrage is not illegal, but the damage to the Senate as an institution is immense since

it's clear that the inquiries are being done in aid of destabilization and to enable the opposition to save face after its failure to whip up public outrage.

Which is quite sad. After the impeachment effort failed, the citizens expected our leaders to close ranks and put all the strife behind and say, "Enough is enough. Let's move the country forward and try to catch up with the economies of our neighbors, and their standard of education and basic services to help the poor." We want them to pass the Anti-Terrorism Act, which has become even urgent following the second terrorist attack in the idyllic resort of Bali.

I was in Bangkok last weekend and noted how differently Thailand and our country deal with corruption. Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra led other top leaders in flight-testing Bangkok's new state-of-the-art Suvarnabhumi Airport, which is five times larger than the old Don Muang Airport. Interestingly, this brand new airport, which has taken many years to build and won't be ready until June next year, has been tainted by corruption charges that have made Thaksin defensive. But this does not seem to deter the Thais who prefer to deal with the corruption issue in its proper venue. What's more important to them is that this new airport will make Bangkok the new hub of international travel, boosting further Thailand's tourism industry.

Here our leaders cannot seem to realize that the double-track North Railway Project, to be funded and constructed by a soft 20-year loan from the Chinese government, will move industry products and people from the north to Metro Manila and give tens of thousands of Filipinos jobs. Drilon and the senators only see what they imagine to be accounting and auditing disadvantages. It wouldn't be surprising if the Chinese government, which has been embarrassed by the controversy, pulled out for good. Ironically, it was Purisima who signed the last agreement for the government. The foreign community is watching this project closely. If Beijing pulls out, goodbye to foreign investments.

# Selfish paranoia

WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE BUS AND SETTLED INTO MY seat, a middle-aged man seated behind me leaned forward and asked in Filipino, "Boss, where's Crossing Guadalupe?"

I was confused. Crossing and Guadalupe are two different points along Edsa. "Where do you want to get off, sir?" I inquired also in Filipino, making sure I got his question right so that I would not mislead him by giving the wrong answer.

He just gave me a blank stare, apparently surprised that I addressed him as "sir." Probably to him, the word was not appropriate for someone dressed in ragged clothes, his face too oily from a long day's haul, his speech sounding like that of a drunken, lazy, old man, and his disposition very depressed. Dust and dirt were very visible on his white T-shirt. Traces of sweat lined his slightly wrinkled face.

"Just tell me where I can get a ride to Pateros," he insisted. Having grown up in the province, I wondered if that was the same way going to Taguig (which I knew one could reach by taking a ride from Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio).

"I recall that one has to pass through Taguig," he went on. Great, that was my cue. "Ah, then you get off at Guadalupe and then wait for your ride under the bridge," I suggested.

He leaned back and became silent, pondering my reply. Which made me wonder if I made sense at all. I wasn't even sure of my answer.

After a while, he leaned forward again and leaned then back, without saying anything. I was getting paranoid. For all I knew, he could be a thief who was considering whether to poke a gun or dagger at me and ask for my phone and wallet (or whatever). When I was small, my mom had often warned me to stay away from public rides late at night because that's when street vultures struck. But it was only that time that her words seemed to have any meaning. The man was huge, double my size, and he could have easily dragged me out of the bus.

He leaned forward again, sending shivers down my spine. The scene was starting to look more and more like it had been lifted from a Filipino movie. But I pretended to ignore him.

He seemed to be in deep thought. Then he started his litany.

"You know, son," he said, "I've had a very long day."

I wanted to tell him to shut up and leave me alone, but that would have been totally uncalled for and it could set loose the demon. So I just faked a smile back at him.

"You know, one of my kids is sick," he told me. "And I can't take him out of the hospital since I am flat broke."

Ok, so I thought wrong. He probably wouldn't rob me, but instead he would beg for help any minute from now, I thought. This could be even scarier and trickier. I helped him and gave him some money, he could just run to the nearest beerhouse and drink the night away. If I refused to give even a little help, I would go home and feel guilty for many days.

He went on: "I had a fight with my eldest daughter who wanted to go to Japan. I didn't approve of her plan, and she just ran away from home and hasn't come back yet. I suppose she must be in Japan by now."

"What ails your son, sir?" I asked him.

"Hepa B," he said.

I felt blood rushing to my face. He could have hepatitis B himself, and he was talking to me! But I tried to remain calm, not wishing to make him feel worse. I wanted to divert the conversation to another subject matter that we could easily drop. But before I could say anything, he said:

"My wife left me. She ran away with another man, leaving our son who was already sick."

"I had two small businesses in Pateros, but both are going bankrupt. The landowner has asked me to vacate the place since he is selling the property."

How sad. He asked me if I cared to join him for a beer or two after he was done negotiating with the landowner. He wanted a two-month extension on the lease since he could think of no other source of income yet.

I was moved by the gesture. After all, he was going out of business and yet he still had the generosity to invite me for some beer. How foolish of me to judge him by his looks and his demeanor. The man had a strong and kind heart, and here I was fearing for my safety.

When it was time for me to get off, I politely told him I had to be on my way. Again he asked, "Are you sure you don't want to join me for a drink?"

I told him I would have liked to do it, but I had classes early the following day. I gave him my brightest smile and got off the bus. He waved his thanks at me and smiled. Then he was gone.

Strange how the most ordinary encounters can turn into life-changing experiences. I didn't even have to talk a lot during that bus ride. All I did was listen to him talk about himself and unburden himself of what was bothering him that night. And I learned how some people can be so lucky as to be spared so much grief as the man had to undergo.

I felt a bit guilty for not having some more time to listen to him, probably over bottles of beer. And I felt worse about taking him for a robber initially. I went home mulling over the question: Why did someone so genuinely kind-hearted as he have to experience so much sadness, and yet still be mistaken for a thief?

Mike Saycon, 22, graduated from Silliman University in 2003 and now works as a media buyer for an advertising firm. He is a beach bum and dreams of spending his last birthday surfing the waves of Siargao and Hawaii with his sons and grandsons.

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## THEY SAID

### For a cause

"I will march tomorrow... if you believe in a cause, then you give it your all."  
—Former President Corason Aquino, joining the calls to bring to the streets the call for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to step down

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# Losing good men

## AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Most observers say that the proximate cause for Luz's abrupt dismissal—or transfer—depending on one's interpretation of the terse letter issued him, was his refusal to accept three post-dated checks from the President's Social Fund worth P15 million and issued to Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz.

Though DepEd was supposedly the payee, a note at the back of the check and Diaz's letter to the department clearly said the funds were for the congressman's "scholarship program." There were those who concluded that the P15 million was no less than payola, for the congressman's vote on the impeachment. But Luz had a simple explanation for his action: government policies do not allow the encashment of post-dated checks.

Call Luz naïve or politically inept, or just plain unlucky in his relatives (his brother Bill is an outspoken critic of the Arroyo administration), but you certainly cannot fault him for obeying the rules.

Code-NGO, the federation of development NGOs in the country, in a statement of support, has lauded Luz's performance at DepEd, especially the way he helped mobilize civil society as a partner in carrying out important projects like the "Textbook Count." "It is civil servants like him that still gives us hope that government can work for the good of the people," Code-NGO said.

Which makes me wonder all the more why Malacañang is hell bent on letting go of him, and perhaps many other civil servants of his ability and integrity.

FILM lovers and supporters of women's rights are invited to "Women's Rights Night" tomorrow, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt 1 Theater. Tomorrow's

film showing, which is part of the ongoing Spanish Film Festival and co-sponsored by Instituto Cervantes and the NGO-GO National Network of the Feminist Centennial, features two outstanding works by Spanish women directors and producers.

The first is "Te Doy Mis Ojos" (Take My Eyes), one of Spain's most acclaimed films in recent years, while the other, "Extrangeras" (Foreign Women), is a multi-awarded documentary on the lives of immigrant women in Madrid.

"Women's Rights Night" might well be considered a prelude to the forthcoming "Feminist Film Festival" in November, which will feature films on women and by women from the Philippines and around the world. A highlight of the "FF" Festival will be the giving of recognition to outstanding Filipino women in film.

IN OBSERVANCE of "TOWNS Week," which is celebrated on the last week of October each year, The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service Foundation has lined up a series of activities from Oct. 18-23.

On Oct. 18, Tuesday, a symposium on Breast Cancer Awareness will be held at the East Avenue Medical Center, co-sponsored by the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Bessie Legarda Foundation. An open clinic and biopsy consultation will follow the symposium.

The next day, Oct. 19, "Women Donors in Waiting," a bloodletting event meant to encourage women's involvement in voluntary blood donation and co-sponsored by the Philippine National Red Cross, will take place at the Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Tektite Towers, in Ortigas.

Then, on Oct. 22, Saturday, TOWNS in collaboration with Gawad Kalinga and the Management Association of the Philippines, will hold groundbreaking ceremonies for a housing project for Aeta families in Sitio Sta. Rosa, Bgy. Burog, Bambang, Tarlac.

The week-long celebration will be capped with an "Eco-Trek" at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City on Oct. 23, Sunday. Families are invited to join this fun event, with a Mass followed by a nature hike and other healthy and wholesome events.

# About Cebu and Negros

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

stone for the infancy composed of Spaniards, Pampangos and Cagayanes.

There were three convents in the city. The oldest, which was established at the same time as the city, belonged to the Order of the Ermitaños of San Agustín. They were the first preachers and missionaries in the Philippines. Their residence, known as the Convent of the Holy Child, was built to house the original image of the Child Jesus. The Santo Niño was also called El Partero because of the many miracles attributed to it in relation to childbirth.

Every year on the feast day of St. Vidal, patron of the city, the image was brought out in solemn procession from his church to the site where one of Legaspi's soldiers had found him and where a chapel had been constructed. The standard of the city was carried by one of the judges chosen for the honor.

Another convent was that of the discolored Order of St. Augustine, and the third was a college of the Company of Jesus with a school for reading, writing, Christian doctrine and Latin.

Outside of the city were two settlements. The Parian was inhabited mostly by Chinese merchants, who had their own public officials and married Christian Sangleyes. They too had their own church.

The other suburb was of farmers who did not have to pay tribute since they were the first to pledge allegiance to the Spanish king and helped in the conquest of other islands, including Manila. They numbered some 300 families. The area was administered by Augustinians and the whole is

land consisted of no more than 5,000 inhabitants.

The produce consisted of *borona*, a grain used when rice was scarce (which was often). They also had abaca, onions, garlic, tobacco and cotton. Some wax was gathered in the mountains and the civet cat was hunted for ambergris, which was much coveted by Chinese merchants. From the cotton, they wove textiles, making both fine and rough stockings and tablecloths resembling damask, products exported for the Galleon Trade. The cotton was dyed for weaving colorful bedspreads, and from abaca, another type of textile was produced called *medreñiques*, both plain and striped.

Northeast of Cebu are other islands and not far from the Cape of Burulaque, the small island of Bantayan is surrounded by four or five others. On these farms, grew cotton and there was an abundance of fish in its waters. In the east, between Cebu and the coast of Ogmui in Leyte, are found little islands called Camotes, with Poro being the principal island.

Tanion Point forms the boundary of Cebu with Negros, separated by a channel where an anguished sea moves dangerous currents in and out. Negros extends northward—a fertile land with enough rice harvest to provide for Cebu and other neighbors. Rebels hid in its mountains, living as their ancestors did. These ranges were also inhabited by swarthy blacks.

The coasts were peopled by Visayans and the whole island's population was around 3,000. The most populated, with 800 residents, was the occidental part administered by the Jesuits beside the River Tanai.

Cebu and Negros has in their vicinity the Island of Fire, also called Siquijor, small but inhabited by courageous people who had to fight off Moro pirates and the Joloanos who entered the islands through their area.

(Data from Fr. Francisco Colin's "Labor Evangelico.")

Comments at [bambiharper@yahoo.com](mailto:bambiharper@yahoo.com)

WHATEVER THE "REAL" REASONS ARE BEHIND his unexpected resignation, there's no doubt that Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo's departure is a big blow to the credibility of the Arroyo administration and a serious setback to the anti-corruption campaign.

I'd been hearing many good things said about Marcelo, especially his determination to pursue anti-graft cases languishing in the twisted corridors of our legal system, and the projects he had initiated with international funders to improve his office's information management system. Indeed, the Office of the Ombudsman was already working with officials of the successful Independent Commission against Corruption in Hong Kong on a similarly aggressive drive against graft and corruption.

Considering that Marcelo was serving just the third year of his seven-year term of office, his resignation is truly a serious blow to this vaunted campaign. At this point, all we can wish him is the time and space he needs to recover from his relentless schedule as ombudsman and the punishing stress he says he was subject to.

GIVEN this unfortunate departure of yet another official conceded to have honored his office with integrity and performed creditably, one has to wonder why Malacañang cannot seem to hold on to good people, and why it also seems hell-bent on losing the few who are still doing a good job.

I was truly shocked at the dismissal of Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz and the manner in which it was carried out. I was shocked because I knew Mike Luz to be a dedicated public servant who would approach me periodically to write about DepEd projects he was working on and sincerely believed in. I remember, a few weeks before last year's elections, asking Luz if he had plans of staying on at DepEd "no matter who wins." Luz said he was determined to leave and return to the private sector, because "ever since I joined government my family has been living on our savings and it's about to run out." I was gratified to find out later that new Education Secretary Butch Abad (who has since resigned) was able to convince Luz to stay on.

AFTER A FRIEND TOLD ME THAT A LOT OF FILIPINOS didn't even know where Mactan is or that it's part of Cebu, I thought I'd write some entertaining or perhaps not-so-entertaining historical information about some islands in the South like Cebu and Negros.

There are many things we take for granted about Cebu these days, like its world-class designers and resorts, its cutting-edge designs and its advertising itself for tourism as "an island in the Pacific." If you think about it, that's exactly what it was centuries ago when there wasn't a nation to speak of. (And at the rate our politics is going we may not have a nation left anyway.)

Sugbu, the island's original name, was the first area to be converted when the Augustinians started the evangelization of the Philippines. Two soldiers sent by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi from Bohol to Cebu returned with the news that there was much gold, more than 600 houses and some 300 natives dressed in finery on that island. Its principal point was called Burulaque, which faced northeast, and from there ran her two coasts, one to the strait of Tanay and the other to the island of Mactan. The place that would in the future be given the title of City of the Most Holy Name of Jesus would eventually occupy the cove almost in the middle of the island.

Some 40 years earlier, Magellan already found many vessels from other foreign places that dropped anchor there and paid rights to the reigning datu to be allowed to trade. Residents had dealings with the rest of the archipelago and other parts all the way to Malacca.

In the latter half of the 15th century, the Spanish king gave Cebu the title of city, with a bishop's see and attendant prelates. A cathedral, government buildings and the dwelling of a chief justice were constructed in Plaza de Armas fronting a triangular-shaped stone fort with three redoubts, six curtains and traverses for the defense of the fort as well as the city and its surroundings. It was furnished with bronze and iron artillery, supplied with equipment and ammunition and quarters of



## Barangay elections and GMA's presidency

CONGRESS' ALIBI (ABOUT SAVING money or about the lack of funds) for postponing the barangay polls is suspect. The government had all the money to sustain the House of Representatives during the useless debates on impeachment. And it apparently has all the money now to spend for the Charter-change initiatives.

If one would look closely, the postponement could turn out to be the more expensive than the holding of the elections as originally scheduled. Consider the following:

1. Republic Act 9164 was approved July of 2002 to synchronize the elections of barangay and SK officials. The law was to be implemented only this year, yet the very institution that legislated it now chooses to ignore it. How can the usefulness of a law enacted only three years ago be shown if it is not implemented?

2. Imagine the money spent in passing a law only to be suspended even before it could be implemented by another law. Both laws certainly entailed a lot of expenses.

3. What will happen to today's 17-year-olds who are aspiring to be the next SK leaders? They will no longer be qualified to run on the next set date of elections. (The postponement killed a thousand dreams?)

4. But then again, the scheduled 2007 elections could be postponed again, depending on the whims and caprices of the "honorable" lawmakers, or on their mere say-so that there's no money available for

the holding of the elections.

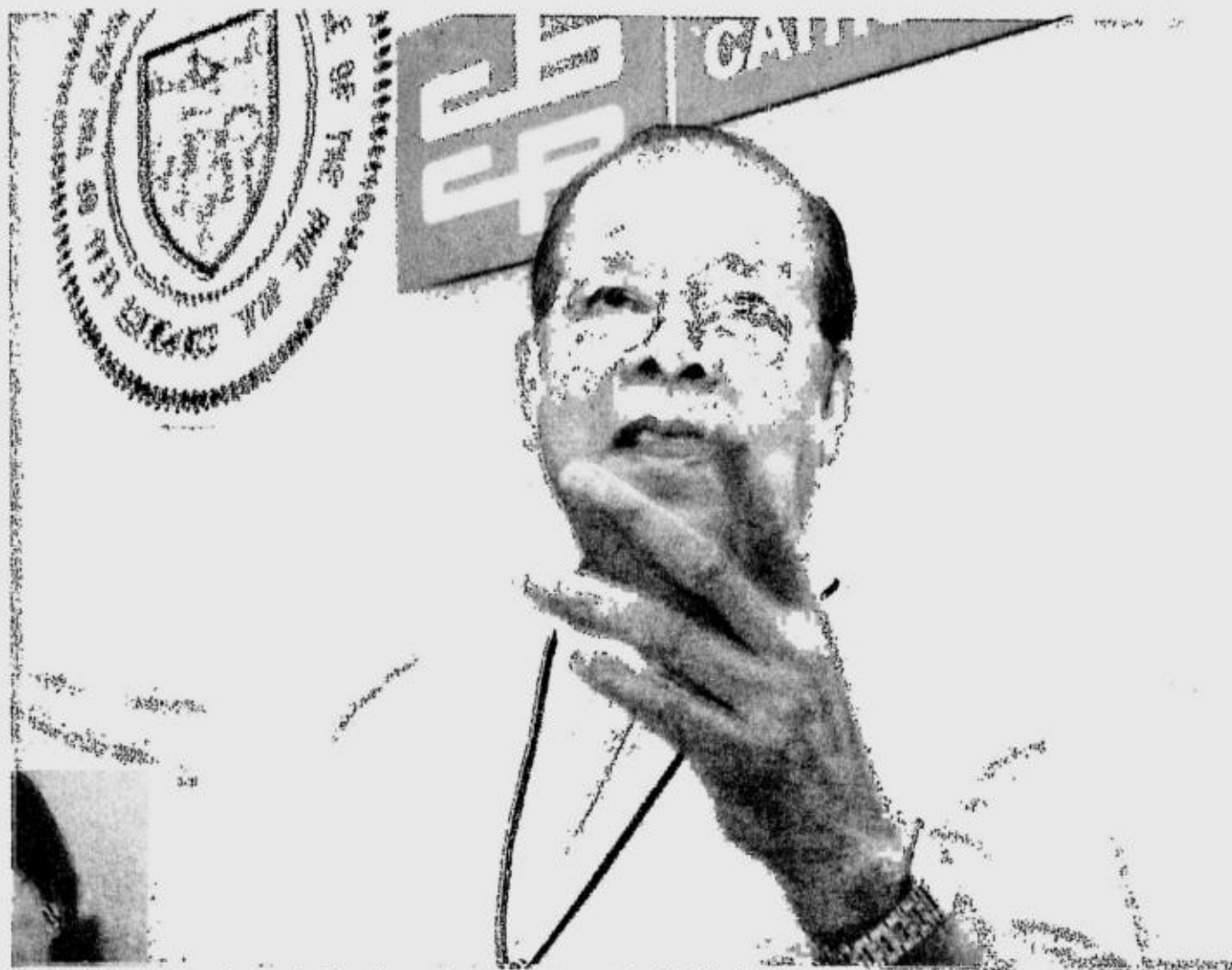
Remember that national and local elections will be held in May 2007. Can you imagine holding two nationwide elections in one year?

5. Meanwhile, corrupt barangay officials continue reigning and wasting and stealing more public funds.

But the barangay and SK elections can still proceed if the President really wants to. After all, it's only the lawmakers who are saying the elections would be an expensive and divisive exercise; most barangays want to change their leaders. Besides, barangay elections are always a merry and healthy contest in the countryside.

President Macapagal-Arroyo would be wise to proceed with the barangay elections. The elections will draw the political heat away from her. And a new set of energetic and enthusiastic leaders, not afraid of traditional politicians, can even help her build the strong republic she has been dreaming of—a dream she can never hope to achieve with the present crop of barangay leaders, most of whom have become very much part of the bankrupt political system she wants to change.

—EUFROCINO J. GUERRERO, Calamba City



DAVAO Archbishop Fernando Capalla speaks to reporters at the CBCP office in Manila.

## A man consumed by love for the poor

CONRADO DE QUIROS' COLUMN, TITLED "Clean conscience" (PDI, 9/6/05) described Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla of Davao as a man without a conscience, who accepts blood money and leaves his brother bishops "twisting in the wind."

It is a vicious portrayal of any person, more so of a church leader because it dehumanizes him as devoid of that faculty that distinguishes a civilized person from a barbarian.

I do not wish to engage De Quiros in a second refutation of his personal evaluation of a human being. I had already briefly countered his unfair criticism of Pope Benedict XVI. (PDI, 8/2/05)

Instead, permit me to try to balance, if not correct his views, with another portrayal of who is Archbishop Capalla—a portrayal which, because of limits of space, can at best be partial.

The Ateneo de Davao University in 1989 awarded him an honorary doctorate describing him as "an extraordinary Filipino pastor, peace-builder and apostle"—high praise from the Jesuits who are

sparing in bestowing praise on bishops.

The archbishop has also received the San Lorenzo Award for Peace and Unity, and the Aurora Aragon Quezon Peace Award. He also was appointed honorary president of the New York-based World Conference on Religion and Peace.

With the Rev. Dr. Hilario M. Gomez, bishop emeritus of the United Church of Christ and Dr. Mahid M. Mutilan, president of the Ulama League, Archbishop Capalla organized the Bishops-Ulama League, which the Unesco cited (PDI 6/1/05) as an exemplary group promoting peace through interfaith and interreligious dialogue.

When Archbishop Capalla was elected CBCP president in 2003, the beloved Fr. James Reuter, SJ wrote: "The new president of the CBCP believes with all his heart that reconciliation, unity and peace are the crying needs of our world right now. This cannot be achieved without forgiveness. And he feels that the time for reconciliation in the Philippines is now."

Traditionally, the CBCP president is

given two terms in office. When his first term ended in 2005, Archbishop Capalla refused a second term. His reason? He wanted to devote more time to work among the poor in Davao. He wanted to be true to the mission he chose for his bishopric, expressed in the motto: "To serve God without fear in Holiness and Justice all our days." (Luke 1:74-75)

I had the privilege of working with Archbishop Capalla on projects for landless coconut workers in Mindanao. He is a man consumed by the fire of love for those on the margins of our society. He is gentle and humble, prayerful as a contemplative, and restless in his quest for reconciliation and solidarity.

Ecce homo! Behold the man, the defender of the poor, the counselor of youth, the partner of men and women in the pursuit of peace—behold this man scourged but forgiving of those who know not what their words do.

—ANTONIO L. LEDESMA, 8 Tangub St., Alabang Hills Vill., Muntinlupa City

## Doubtless the legitimate president

WITHOUT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's knowledge, I worked, campaigned for and appeared as lawyer for Lakas-CMD during the last elections in Alfonso, Cavite. Though GMA placed only second to Sen. Filo Lacson, I can look anyone eye-to-eye and say that in our town everything was fair and square. No cheating transpired, and our teachers and election officers must be hailed and praised.

The Garcillano tape exploded like a bomb, but I never believed it and I defended my President with all the reasons I could give. I was a staunch supporter of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo till the day she appeared on national TV and admitted that the voice in the tape was hers. My children and supporters taunted me until I saw again a way out for GMA when she said, "Impeach me. Just follow the rule of law. Give me my day in court so I can defend myself."

The opportunity came as GMA wished when three impeachment complaints were filed. I was confident that she could survive the crisis before the Senate tribunal. I knew in my heart that truth would set us free, that GMA won, maybe not by a million votes, but by a safe margin; she was neither a liar nor an usurper. But alas, GMA's soldiers in Congress swiftly killed

the complaints (hopefully not upon her order); thereby also killing my right and the right of the people to know the truth; and completely depriving GMA of her right to prove her innocence and tell the whole world that she is the legitimate and rightful President of the Republic.

I quote a fitting verse from the Bible for those who voted to junk the complaints: "Alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now. Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets." (Luke 6:20-26)

Indeed, the administration representatives betrayed not only GMA but the Filipino nation as well.

My wife Nerie, son Rustan and minor daughters Katherine, Christine and my constituents keep asking me this question: When will we have the opportunity to assert that the woman we campaigned for and whom we voted for is, without question, our legitimate President?

—NORMAN M. VERSOZA, 3/P Unit 311 Integrated Professional Corporate Center, 14 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

## Why the different application forms in RP consulates, embassies?

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY EACH Philippine consulate should have different forms for passport applications and for reports of births and marriages abroad. When I applied for a US passport, the form was standardized, and I could use it at any passport office. Not so with Philippine forms.

The application forms in the Philippine consulate in New York are different from those in the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. The forms differ mostly in their letterheads and items in the forms. The Philippine Embassy would not accept the forms from the New York consulate. That is kind of odd considering that both consulates represent the same entity.

Since we had filled in New York forms, we had to repeat the same process of filling in the Washington, D.C. forms, thus wasting considerable time.

I could not find sensible logic in printing different forms per consulate. Why don't our consulates just adopt the Republic of the Philippines letterhead, standardize the forms for whatever purpose and add a line to indicate the consulate where one files his or her application?

Fortunately, the staff were typical Filipinos. They were very nice and accommodating.

—JUNIE C DELIZO delizoj@co.rockland.ny.us

## Moral confusion among bishops

ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SEPT. 9 issue of the INQUIRER, it was reported that the bishops were divided on the issue of Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation) donations. Some said that it is all right to receive Pagcor money as long as this is spent for the benefit of the poor. Others said that it is never morally right to receive money that comes from gambling. The end does not justify the means. So which is which?

One bishop argued: "Gambling is amoral," meaning, it is neither moral nor immoral. In real life, when gamblers lose, their families, most especially the children, suffer the consequences.

Whom are we to follow then? The Pagcor bishops or their anti-gambling colleagues?

We are taught that the bishops are our shepherds. They are our moral guides. They are our protectors and defenders. But with their conflicting views about Pagcor donations, we are at a loss and confused. What are we to do? Find out who the good shepherds are and who are the bad? But how do we identify them?

—ROSS C. OLAYBAL, Sta. Lucia Parish, Manggahan, Pasig City

## Inaccurate comparison

WE WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT A GLARING inaccuracy in Meralco's radio and TV commercials, which depict the many kinds of charges (generation, transmission, distribution, missionary electricity, etc.) that constitute a Meralco power bill.

Specifically, in the "Taho" TV advertisement, Transco's transmission charge was shown as equivalent to three cups while Meralco's distribution charge was depicted as equivalent to only two cups. The average TV viewers would naturally interpret this to mean that Transco's transmission charge is greater than Meralco's distribution charge.

In truth, Transco's transmission charge is significantly lower than Meralco's distribution charge.

Last August, for example, Transco's share of the 83.54 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) total transmission charge (as reflected in a Meralco bill) was only 63.35 centavos and represents only about 7-10

percent of the total Meralco bill, depending on the consumption level.

Meralco's distribution charge, on the other hand, ranges from about 57.29 centavos per kWh for those consuming less than 100 kWh (due to inter-class subsidy) to P1.6615 per kWh for those consuming 400 kWh and above. This in turn represents a range of 9-18 percent of the total Meralco bill.

While we understand Meralco's intention to inform the general public that many non-Meralco charges are included in its power bill, we feel that the TV advertisements have made Meralco look good at our expense. We hope Meralco would be more sensitive and circumspect in its future advertisements.

—RUFINO G. VILLAFUERTE, manager, Corporate Communication, National Transmission Corp. (TransCo), Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City

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—rene locsin, QC

No. It has no place in a democracy.

—marco bernardo, baguio city

hindi!! DiktatUrya na itong ginagawa nia sa aten! Hangang kelan tayo mgububulag-bulagan? Karapatan natin 2! Nasaan ang hustisya?! PILIPINAS GUMICING KA!

—paulyn duman, 21, makati

yes. Given d present scenario in d country, CPR is a better option than max. tolerance! Everyday chaos..

—romel amihan, 29, bacolod city

yes, govt and police are tasked to maintain d peace, this will lead rallyists to be smarter and more civil in their actions..

—Winston Obidos, 27, makati city

no!! Let democracy rule, protest actions are not criminal actions...

—jet flores, 22, makati

Desperado na si GMA. Nagpapatunay lamang ang EO ay simbolo ng kahinaan ng kanyang administrasyon.



—Nolan Ariola, 30, Pasig

NO, BEC. anything BAD can HAPPEN, or even WORSE to the INNOCENTS and to the PROTESTERS, as well.

Its the DUTY of the POLICE, also.

—Manny G. Yap, Cebu

NO. Calibrated preemptive response is hard to implement. It is prone to abuse.

—Joseph gabriel, 21, QC

NO. Bakit di na lang diretsahin declaration of Martial Law, installment pa nito, yun naman talaga ang gusto nila gawin.

—jeanne villaganas, 23, lapulapu

Cory-Drilon pLot? hehehe! GMA-Miriam pLot 2 justify Exec. Order 464.

—indio, 35, MKTI

NO. THE RIGHT to PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE and PROTEST, as a CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT SHOULD NEVER be ABRIDGED!

—Jeremias Decena, 57, sta. rosa, laguna

Malacañang's plan to declare martial law or even a state of national emergency is proof Mrs. Arroyo and her allies have completely got it wrong on the current political turmoil. The problem is Mrs. Arroyo herself - what she's done to get to the Presidency and what she's done while occupying it. Filipinos are not difficult to please. We, in fact, have an unusually high and unhealthy tolerance for suffering. But we can only tolerate so much. If Mrs. Arroyo

has any concern left for the welfare of her countrymen, she should resign. Otherwise, emergency powers should be used on her.

—Darwin Mariano, Aksyon Kabataan, Damar Village, QC

Should Ferdinand Marcos be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?

if Ilocanos belev marcos is hero, bury him in da heart of Ilocandia, put monument, but not at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

—dodo marante, 70, manila

he shud b buried at d LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI, he is a WWII veteran, wid nothing written in TOMB, just: DITO naka-LIBING!

—mando rubing, 43, davao city

agree! He may have bin bad in d end, but he sure paved d way 4 country's development.

—kateri corpus, 30, urdaneta city

NO! ang mga nkaling dun dapat pamarisan, kung may magsasabi

na dapat tularan ang ginawa ni Marcos, eh bakit pa? Kaso ang tulad niya ay parang isang masamang panaginip na dapat ibaon o ilibing sa limot..

—darius, 27, bulacan

yes coz he had done a lot as prez.

—kateri copuz, 30, urdaneta city

NO WAY! He was a dictator and plunderer, he and his family abused, looted and plundered and impoverished the Philippines and the Filipinos.

—Rico, manila

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Do you agree that the government and the police should drop its "maximum tolerance" policy towards street protesters, in favor of "calibrated preemptive response"?

NO! Right ng bawat tao yan, asan na ang tinatawag na democracy ng atin bansa, kung mawala yung maximum tolerance dito?

—zenaida caguioa, urdaneta city

n0. what is the essence of living in a democratic country when our voice is being suppressed.

—theresa caguioa, 22, dagupan city

i agree, because I'm tired na sa mga nangyayari diyan sa manila. Nakakacra na ng hus2 sa image ng mga pinoy. Kaguluhan..

—Lani Militante, 30, antique

Yes. Even d police hv d right 2 self defense against a mob dat aims 2 incite violence n gain media coverage.



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# Attacks on Left start in Central Luzon

## In the know

### COINCIDENCE OR PLAN?

IS IT COINCIDENCE or a result of a master plan to eliminate the Left?

Wherever Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan gets assigned, the killings of Leftist activists escalate.

"Berdugo ng Mindoro" was how Palparan came to be known. As an Army colonel and later brigadier general, he headed the 204th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army in Oriental Mindoro from 2001 to 2004.

During his term, the human rights group Karapatan reported 326 cases of human rights violations including about 80 killings.

Among these were the murders in April 2003 of Leftist leaders Eden Marcellana, secretary general of the Alyansa sa Pasusulong ng Karapatan Pantao in Southern Tagalog and Eddie Gumanoy, chair of the Kasapiang ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan and that of Edilberto Napoles, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and coordinator for the second district of Bayan Muna Oriental Mindoro.

In February 2005, Palparan was transferred to the 8th Infantry Division in Samar. During a Commission on Appointments hearing, Alex Lagunsad of the rights group Katugod Sinirangan Bisayas accused Palparan of being responsible for 199 cases of killing, frustrated killing, disappearances, harassment, torture, physical assault, arbitrary arrest and detention of civilians and rights advocates.

Among these were the killings of Protestant Pastor Edison Lapuz, Katugod-Sinirangan Bisayas chair, and Alfredo Malinao, head of the Kahugpungan sa mga Maguruma sa San Isidro (Kamas).



PALPARAN

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A LEADER OF THE PARTY-LIST group Anak Pawis was killed and another was abducted in Nueva Ecija on Sunday night, incidents that the group had blamed on Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

Armando Javier Jr. was shot dead at his home at Barangay Sta. Clara in Cuyapo town at 9:45 p.m., according to Joseph Canlas, spokesperson of the Anak Pawis in Central Luzon.

Cecilia Esteban was abducted by a man and a woman on board a light blue van with license plate WKI 059 from her house at Barangay Lennec in Guimba town at around 8 p.m., Can-

las said, citing the accounts of witnesses.

Javier and Esteban were the fifth and sixth members of the party-list group who were gunned or went missing since Sept. 1 when Palparan, accused of more than 500 cases of human rights violations in Eastern Visayas, assumed command of the 7th ID based in Port Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Reached through his mobile phone, Palparan rued the propensity of militant groups to blame him for the killings.

"Ewan ko ba kung bakit ako ang sinisi (I don't know why I am being accused of being behind those violent incidents.) These had been occurring long before I arrived in Central Luzon. They also have lots of enemies, not only the military," the military official said.

Canlas said "no one else was to blame because the killings and the abductions happened as the military carried out intensified operations in the same areas."

"We are seeing a pattern here," he added.

Canlas identified the other victims as Jose Levimar Rieza of Orani town and two Aetas in Abucay town, all in Bataan.

A leader of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide in Norzagaray, Bulacan, was killed after the Sept. 12 Central Luzon-wide transport strike, he said.

Palparan urged an investigation into the incidents to clear out the military's alleged involvement in those killings.

"The leftists should stop making us their convenient target of accusation. The rebels should also stop killing soldiers," Palparan said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## Kin of arrested peasants file habeas corpus petition

BACOLOD CITY—THE RELATIVES OF five Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) officials and their two companions have asked the court to order the military to produce them following their arrest on Friday on allegations that they were communist rebels who participated in a foiled attack on a military detachment in Barangay Haba, Candoni town, Negros Occidental.

Lawyer Rodolfo Parreño yesterday filed a petition for habeas corpus on behalf of the relatives before the Regional Trial Court in Kabankalan City, about 92 km southwest of here.

The petitioners maintained that the seven were not members of the New People's Army (NPA) as alleged

by the military.

They said five were connected to the KMP—consultant Morito Dionson, 59, of Dumaguete City; peasant organizers Marilou and Abraham Villanueva, of Valladolid town; KMP-Amihan organizer Charity Villar, 41, of Bacolod; Darry Dayanan, 20, of Escalante City and organizer of Teatro Obrero.

The two others were their companion Jermie Gelleagan, 37 and driver Rico Abrasaldo, 41, both of Negros Oriental.

The group was arrested at about 9 p.m. on Friday after their vehicle was stopped by soldiers of the 12th Infantry Battalion Alpha Company at a checkpoint, about 50 meters from their detachment in Barangay

Camingawan, Kabankalan.

Col. Jogy Leo Fojas, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the checkpoint was set up after the soldiers received information that a group of armed rebels from Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental was on their way to Bacolod.

He said a .38 cal. Colt pistol was allegedly found in the vehicle. The seven were also identified by Adelaido Pananganan, a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit, as part of the NPA team that staged a foiled attack on a military detachment last Sept. 27 in Candoni town. Pananganan was shot in the left armpit during the attack.

The military alleged that four of the suspects were ranking officers of the

NPA Komiteng Rehiyonal-Negros chaired by priest-turned rebel Frank Fernandez.

They were Dionson, Marilou Villanueva, her husband Abraham, alias Bigboy, and Villa.

Fred Caña, of Karapatan in Negros Occidental, said the KMP organizers attended a meeting in Dumaguete and were returning to Bacolod when they were arrested.

He said Dionson was separated from the rest of the group, and was loaded in a van that sped off in an undetermined direction.

Guns were reportedly pointed at those who were left behind who were blindfolded and forced to lie flat on the ground, he said.

*Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## Hunt for Sayyaf takes break; 3,000 evacuees return to homes

COTABATO CITY—NEARLY 3,000 evacuees returned to their homes in Talayan and Guindulungan towns in Maguindanao on Sunday after government forces running after suspected terror groups Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf decided to suspend operations by pulling out troops in deference to the worldwide observance of Ramadan that begins Tuesday.

"We have to comply with what has been agreed upon during the exploratory talks in Malaysia," said Maj. Dixon Hermoso of the Coordinating Council for the Cessation of Hostilities, the government's truce panel with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He said government and MILF negotiators in Malaysia had agreed on Sept. 14 to allow the return of civil-

ians and families of MILF members to their places of origin before the start of the Muslims' month-long fast and sacrifice scheduled to start either on Oct. 3 or 4, depending on the actual sighting of the New Moon.

At least two battalions of soldiers from the Army's 6th Infantry Division have been deployed in Talayan and Guindulungan since July after intelli-

gence reports said terrorists were seen in the area.

The arrival of the soldiers prompted MILF combatants and their families to leave the areas to pave the way for the military operation. Despite this, the government failed to get bandit leaders Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Solaiman and Espilon Hapilon.

*Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Teen shot dead

ROXAS CITY—The village chief of Linatiran in Panay town, Capiz allegedly shot dead an 18-year-old man who he claimed he caught stealing electrical wires on Friday night. Panay police chief Senior Insp. Oscar Silva said the suspect Jose Catalan surrendered to the police and gave up his firearm. But the family of Mark Anthony Agdeles of Barangay Barica here belied Catalan's allegation, saying Agdeles was a "good and responsible son" who had gone to Linatiran to attend a benefit dance. Catalan claimed that he caught Agdeles gathering cut electrical wires in Linatiran. He said he was forced to shoot the victim because Agdeles tried to stab him with his knife. Agdeles alleged that three of Catalan's companions had escaped.

*Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Traders' slay unsolved

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police asked the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the National Bureau of Investigation to help solve the shooting of Dumaguete businessman Conrado Cabautan last Sept. 22. Dumaguete police director Chief Insp. Manuel Hidalgo said they have sought the help of other law enforcement agencies to expand their intelligence-gathering beyond Dumaguete. Cabautan, 78, was on his way home at about 5 p.m. when a bonnet-wearing motorcyclist fired at his car as it was cruising along Mango Avenue in Piapi. He was hit in the left cheek. Last year, Cabautan was also shot by motorcycle-riding gunmen outside his store in Barangay Pulangtubig. He was hit in the leg.

*Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### New Bohol cop chief

CEBU CITY—Supt. Arturo Evangelista, chief of the Police Center for Aviation Security based in Mactan Cebu International Airport, is set to assume the post as director of the Bohol Provincial Police Office. Evangelista said Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado selected him in the list of nominees for possible replacement of Supt. Elpidio Ebanef, who would retire in October. He said he was just waiting for the official order from Camp Crame about his new assignment. "I am very glad to be assigned in Bohol, which is my home province," he said. Evangelista's parents are from Bohol although he grew up in Manila. Evangelista, 48, and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, had been PCAS chief since Sept. 25, 2002. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Safety seminar for hotels



CITY OF CALAPAN—In response to a growing concern for better security and crime prevention by its members, the Hotel and Resort Association of Calapan Inc., organized a seminar on safety measures and crime prevention for hotel and resort personnel last Sept. 30 here. Provincial Intelligence and Investigation officer Senior Insp. Virgilio Manahan identified common problems in crime prevention in hotel

and resort firms and offered measures to address them, such as employee alertness, installation of alarm systems and periodic background investigation of all personnel.

*Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Cell phone explodes



TUGUEGARAO CITY—Don't leave your cell phones when charging them. Fire officials issued this warning after a cellular phone left being charged exploded and burned two houses here on Thursday. Arson investigators said the cellular phone exploded at the house of the Quequega family and razed the nearby house. The prompt arrival of firemen helped prevent the fire from spreading. *Estanislao Caltex, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## 7 nabbed in Puerto for illegal gambling

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Police arrested seven persons for illegally operating Easy Two (EZ2) lotto.

Supt. Elpidio de Asis, Palawan provincial police director, said those arrested were illegally collecting bets.

He said they were using the government sanctioned EZ2 lotto of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office but the bets were not remitted to the lotto betting stations.

Those arrested were apparently self-financed or operated in small groups.

These operators get bets from bettors using small sheets of paper and the winning number depends on the results of the EZ2 lotto.

Puerto Princesa City has been declared jueteng-free for more than 10 years now but there have been small-time bet collectors who have operated "ending," which is based on the results of the Philippine Basketball Association games and now, the offshoot of EZ2 lotto.

De Asis said they would file charges against the seven.

But a 70-year-old woman, who was arrested, said she did not collect bets from people.

She said what the police saw in her bag was a notebook with all her debts from an Indian entrepreneur. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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# Gov sees no big deal in frequent US vacations

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid reported for work late on Monday even after a 15-day vacation in the United States, the third he had taken this year.

Several capitol employees, most of them old-timers, voiced out their frustrations after noting Lapid's absence in Monday's flag ceremony.

"In the time of Apung Titong (former Gov. and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza) and Apung Bren (former Gov. Guiao), they only left for abroad when it was for official businesses," an administrative staffer working for the capitol for 20 years said.

At a smoking area where employees gathered, the long absence of the 26-year-old official, the eldest son of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, was the subject of a conversation peppered with disgust for the country's youngest governor.

An INQUIRER check with the Department of Interior and Local Government in Central Luzon showed that Lapid went for "vacation" in the United States this year on Jan. 8 to 20, June 20 to 25 and Sept. 16 to 30.

According to DILG Regional Director Josefina Castilla-Go, all these travels were approved by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Go said the local government

code has not set a cap on the number of trips or vacations that local executives could take.

Lapid's executive assistant said the governor and Senator Lapid returned to the country last Friday. Why the senator was allowed a foreign travel amid a pending graft case, the alleged double sale of a P140-million land for a capitol housing project and its alleged improper payments of taxes, was not immediately known.

The governor, who arrived at 10 a.m., confirmed it was his third vacation this year and that all three were "personal travels." The costs, he said, were not charged to public funds.

He did not say why he had to often take breaks from work. He said he made sure he left the management to people like Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao and provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas.

Arcenas said no issue must be raised against Lapid's vacations. For one, he said, the governor was in constant communication with him for pressing matters related to executive functions.

Capitol employees said the issues in the governor's absence were his lack of hands-on leadership and the money he spent for those travels. The monthly income plus allowances of a governor is less than P30,000. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



PRIZED COW

A man gives his prized cow an early morning rinse in Bantayan Island, Cebu.

YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

*Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...*

**"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"**

As an employer, I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

*Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas! Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS—whether they are probationary, casual or contractual—are criminally liable and could go to jail.*

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## Cockpits fight over cockfighting in Benguet court

By Delmar Cariño  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—COCK-fighting continues to please aficionados and shore up the coffers of this town and the province but two cockpits here are locked in their own cockfight over which of them should be authorized to operate legally.

The dispute reached the regional trial court when the Lamtang Cockpit Arena in Barangay Lamtang filed on Friday a case for injunction and asked that a temporary restraining order be immediately issued on the operations of the Shilan Multipurpose Sports Complex in Barangay Shilan.

The Shilan Complex got the goat of its rival when its cocks started to make noise because of successful derbies that had contributed more than P1 million in amusement taxes since it began operation in November 2004.

Dwight Nicolas Bello III, Lamtang cockpit owner, said that the complex had no authority to hold cockfights because its business permit allowed it only to run billiards, boxing, chess and table tennis matches.

### Questioned license

In the civil suit filed before the court, Bello took to task Mayor Nestor Fongwan and the municipal council for suddenly granting the complex, in a Sept. 27 resolution, a license to hold cockfights "despite clear existing legal prohibitions."

But the staff of Tobias Lubos, Shilan Complex owner, said the derbies were not held solely to satisfy the clamor of cockers but primarily to provide community service in terms of extending financial assistance to medical, sports and barangay activities.

A report showed that since January this year, Shilan had already donated P242,365 to selected beneficiaries.

This was the reason, the Shilan supporters said, that the complex had been issued provisional permits at times or were tolerated by the local governments to hold derbies.

Lamtang's counsel, lawyer Lauro Gacayan, however, said that since November 2004, Shi-



lan had no permit to be a venue for cockfights and the license recently issued by the town council was also illegal.

### Legal opinion

Gacayan said in the court petition that the municipal franchise violated Presidential Decree 449, the cockfighting law of 1974, which provided that there should only be one cockpit for every town with a population of less than 100,000. This town has 82,700 people.

Gacayan added that while the local government code had granted mayors the power to issue licenses for cockpits, the power must be exercised "provided no existing prior rights should be prejudiced."

He said Lamtang had been holding cockfights for 30 years already under a franchise issued by the National Gamefowl Commission.

Despite the commission's abolition, the license is deemed not to have been revoked, Gacayan said, maintaining that the authority given by the new local government code to local government units to grant cockfight franchises should not be exercised to set aside existing cockpits.

But lawyer Cruzaldo Bacduyan said this town granted a franchise to Shilan Complex since, until now, Lamtang cockpit had not furnished the council a copy of its franchise despite repeated requests.

In a meeting at the provincial capitol on Monday, the cockpits' owners agreed to the suggestion of Gov. Borromeo Melchor to amicably settle the issue.



Question of the Week

**Your message to the newly crowned Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman?**

*Senders of the best 20 texts as published in Tuesday's INQBOX will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt"!*

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to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them



# Palace-Congress talks up

From page A1

senators said in their appeal.

The senators asked the three leaders "to open avenues for communication, as well as to provide a system that will prevent further institutional confrontation."

The statement, titled "An Appeal for Constructive Dialogue," was signed by Senators Pangilinan, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavio, Pia Cayetano, Ramon Revilla Jr., Richard Gordon, Manuel Roxas II, Ralph Recto and Lito Lapid. Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Miriam Defensor-Santiago also agreed to sign the appeal.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential political affairs adviser, said Malacañang would seriously consider the Senate proposal.

"We recognize its honest intent," Claudio said. "Although we have not received the letter, we will study this. Anything is possible."

In a press briefing, Drilon said he was open to a dialogue but stressed that "respect must be accorded to the Senate."

De Venecia, however, said the Senate should first undertake "confidence-building measures," such as the immediate release of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales from its custody.

"They should promptly release Secretary Gonzales and then we'll talk (on EO 464)," he said.

The Senate has refused to act on a Palace request to lift its detention order on Gonzales, whom the chamber cited in contempt after he refused to answer questions during a blue ribbon committee investigation of a controversial contract involving a US lobby firm.

Under intense grilling, Gonzales' blood pressure shot up. He was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center where he remains confined to this day under Senate custody.

In retaliation, Ms Arroyo ordered her officials not to appear in Senate investigations. Ms Arroyo's aides contend opposition lawmakers were using the Senate probes as another platform from which to oust her after the House last month threw out impeachment charges against her on a technicality.

Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan were



**FIERY** Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago says she'll shoot herself right in the Senate session hall if her statements constituted a "clear and present danger."

JESS YUSON

dismissed from the Philippine Military Academy last week after they testified without Ms Arroyo's permission before a Senate committee investigating vote-rigging allegations against her. The two appeared last Monday before the military provost marshal, who will investigate them for defying the President.

## Supreme Court case

The legality of EO 464 was challenged before the Supreme Court in three separate petitions filed by the Alternative Law Groups Inc. (ALG), former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez and the party-list group Bayan Muna, nongovernment organization Courage and Counsels for the Defense of Liberties.

The petitioners claimed Ms Arroyo's order was unconstitutional because it obstructed Congress' legal role to look into government corruption and irregularities to bolster legislation. They asked the high court to immediately suspend the presidential order and declare it illegal.

"It's a gag order," said Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna. "It could be used to cover up crimes and constitutional violations by the executive branch."

Named respondent in all three petitions were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga were also named respondents in Chavez's petition.

The ALG said EO 464 prevented Congress from questioning witnesses in connection with any wrongdoing in government and prevented the check and balance between the executive and legislative branches.

"Furthermore, a corrupt president will just have to agenda in a closed-door Cabinet meeting the illegal transactions in a fraudulent contract, and such transaction is then deemed 'confidential or classified'—and beyond the reach of congressional scrutiny," Bayan Muna said.

Ocampo's group also said the executive order also "trounces the core precept of public office being a public trust."

The petitioners said the EO violated Article VI, Section 22 of the Constitution that states that "heads of departments may, upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House ... appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments."

Chavez said the consent of the President was only required when heads of departments appeared before Congress on their own initiative.

"When the heads of depart-

ments are summoned by either house of Congress to appear, they are not required to get the consent of the President. When the law is clear, there can be no room for construction or interpretation, only strict application," he said.

Even so, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye expressed confidence Malacañang would be able to defend the legality of the executive order in the Supreme Court.

"The EO has been signed ... and for as long as this has not been successfully challenged in court, this will have to stay," Bunye added.

## New criticism

Ms Arroyo's order has stirred new criticism against her by left-wing activists, who were already enraged by her administration's new tough policy against street protests.

Ms Arroyo has been grappling with her worst crisis triggered by allegations that she conspired with an election commissioner, tapped loyal generals and policemen and used public funds to ensure her victory in last year's elections. She has denied the charges.

Senator Biazon, a former military chief of staff, warned that Ms Arroyo risked stoking military unrest by sacking the two officers who testified in the Senate. Coup rumors have intensified in recent days.

The military has played a key role in nonviolent "people power" revolts that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001. Hundreds of young officers mutinied against Ms Arroyo over alleged corruption two years ago, but the uprising was quickly put down.

Exacerbating political tensions, the opposition had also warned that the Arroyo administration was drafting a proclamation declaring a state of national emergency. A list of persons to be arrested has also been prepared, according to opposition sources.

In what appeared to be a counterattack in the media, administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago accused former President Corazon Aquino and Drilon of involvement in a plot to oust Ms Arroyo through a coup or assassination.

## Proper governance

In their appeal for a dialogue,

# Drilon challenges gov't: Show proof

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

Sevilla is in her mid-60s, he said.

## A mild stroke

Drilon said Sevilla was not the "chattering relative" Santiago had painted her to be and that she was released from a hospital two or three weeks ago after suffering a mild stroke.

"She has nothing to do with this kind of dirty politics," Drilon said.

Drilon said the allegation by Santiago was "absurd and preposterous" and said he was never involved and will not get involved with any move to topple the government.

## Atienza warning

"I have been in public service for 18 years. I have never been involved in any assassination plot or in any plot to stage a coup...I stand proud of my public service," Drilon said.

Drilon also dismissed the warning by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, chair of the Liberal Party, that the party would sanction him for allegedly violating party rules. (See related story on Page A3.)

"Mayor Atienza is speaking for himself. He cannot speak and he does not speak for the Liberal Party. As president of the party, I am the chief executive officer of the party," Drilon said.

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN Drilon challenged the government to produce evidence that he and former President Corazon Aquino had plotted against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he would ask the NBI to investigate. Go ahead, present to me the evidence," Drilon said yesterday in a press conference.

Drilon said the "black propaganda" against him and the Senate was meant to divert attention from the Senate inquiry into government scandals and to push the idea of abolishing the chamber.

Drilon asked his detractors to spare his sister-in-law, Susie Calvo-Sevilla, from the controversy.

## Leave her alone

Pro-administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago earlier claimed that Sevilla had talked about the supposed plot to oust or kill Ms Arroyo at a gathering of a nongovernment organization.

"I appeal to everyone to please leave Mrs. Susie Sevilla out of this," Drilon said. "[She] is a retired executive. She takes care of her grandchildren. She goes to church everyday. She is not involved in politics, much more a coup plot."

the senators stressed that the true test of successful governance lay in the "aptitude of the leaders to resolve problems" within the framework of the rule of law.

"Thus, as a starting point in an effort to manage the current impasse, leaders should solve the problem through diplomatic dialogue thereby strengthening the rapport among key institutions in the government," they said.

To break the impasse, Recto proposed that the Senate thoroughly screen its witnesses to ensure fair hearings, and in exchange, Malacañang would withdraw the controversial executive order.

"Maybe the investigations being conducted by the Senate would be done more [fairly] by giving due rights to witnesses and

testimonies," he said. "Similarly, if the Senate can do that, then, Malacañang should withdraw the EO. There must be a compromise of some sort."

Recto stressed the need for "a more harmonious cooperation" between the executive and legislative branches, especially in view of the impending implementation of the expanded value-added tax and the upcoming budget hearings.

"Can you imagine if don't pass the budget and if we reenact the budget? We will tax the people higher but we're short-changing them, by not giving them improvements in infrastructure, social services, health and education," he said. *With reports by Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and AP*

# Miriam goes ballistic, blasts foes

From page A1

in a gathering of a nongovernment organization.

Santiago said a friend of hers who was at the same gathering heard Sevilla "shooting her mouth off about the alleged plot" and claiming that Ms Aquino had even boasted of having talked with her contacts in the military.

## Lie detector test

Santiago declined to identify her friend, saying Drilon's sister-in-law might harass her source.

The senator told the INQUIRER that Drilon should ask his sister-in-law to take a lie detector test to resolve the issue.

Santiago said that if her statements constituted "clear and pre-

sent danger" to the state, she would shoot herself "right before your eyes, here in the session hall."

But she said she had no plans of producing evidence of the kill-Arroyo plot.

"My ignorant critics clamor for evidence of an assassination plot. The only sure evidence is the corpse of President Arroyo, and I assure you as a lawyer that I am under no obligation to produce that," Santiago said.

## 'Hubris of the ignorant'

The fiery senator then turned her ire on Representatives Benigno (Noyonoy) Aquino III, Rollo Golez, Etta Rosales and Rollo Suplico for displaying the "hubris of the ignorant" when they criticized her after she spoke about

the plot.

Branding the lawmakers as "nincompoops and dimwits," she challenged them to a televised debate.

Santiago called Noyonoy Aquino "that sorry excuse for the scion of a great man" and accused the Aquino family of shamelessly clinging to their Hacienda Luisita estate "and bulldozing anybody standing in their path."

She claimed Ms Aquino kicked her out as agrarian reform secretary when she stood in the way of the family's hold on the hacienda.

Santiago said Golez was using her as a stepping stone to improve his "dolorous chances of getting" elected senator. Later, she asked if Rosales had passed English 101 in college and said

namecalling was the "last refuge of the pathetically uninformed."

## Enter Jinggoy

She said Suplico was once her student to whom she should have given a failing grade.

Regarding claims that she was defending Ms Arroyo because her husband was a presidential adviser, Santiago said: "They are even dragging my husband. Do they want me to talk about their wives and mistresses?"

Santiago only calmed down when Sen. Jinggoy Estrada interpellated her, eliciting her remark that the ouster of his father, former President Joseph Estrada, was unconstitutional.

"Run for president, Senator Jinggoy, and right everything," she said, breaking into a smile af-

ter Jinggoy kissed her on the cheek.

At the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia told the INQUIRER there were "intelligence reports" about a supposed plot "to disable the President. Disable means to assassinate or take her hostage."

## Shades of Marcos

De Venecia claimed the intelligence reports had been confirmed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano branded the claims as ludicrous.

"Seriously, we've seen this before. It sounds like the fake ambush against (then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce) Enrile in 1972 that paved the way for the decla-

ration of martial law," said Mariano.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye refused to say if Ms Arroyo was giving weight to the assassination story. But he said this would not distract her from the job at hand.

"Even raw information cannot be dismissed outright," said Bunye.

Bunye was evasive when pressed to comment directly on Santiago's claim.

"This allegation came from a third party and we don't have the same information this third party has and we are not in a position to comment. We have no personal information that the senator possesses." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan*

# AFP belies talk Rangers commander on way out

From page A1

nized by the Marikina City government and honoring him as a native son.

Senga said he was convinced that his troops were "firm in their duty to uphold the law and defend our nation."

A military source, who refused to be identified, said that Malacañang had ordered Lim's relief from his San Miguel post. The source said Lim's checkered history and his troops' proximity to Manila were key factors in his transfer.

## First YOU general

As a captain, Lim led the siege of Makati in 1989 during a military putsch against then President Corazon Aquino. He was a leader of the rebellious Young Officers' Union at the time. The group has resurfaced in recent months, but Lim has denied involvement in it.

Lim is the first YOU leader to become a general and the youngest to be made brigadier general at the age of 49 in April.

The source said Malacañang had been alarmed by the appearance of Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani before a Senate investigative panel last week in defiance of Ms Arroyo's order. Persistent talk of unrest in the military had also contributed to the decision to transfer Lim as a precaution.

Lim is reportedly being considered to replace Gudani as assistant superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), but Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the Army chief, rejected the move, according to an INQUIRER source. Esperon was quoted as saying that it was too early for Lim to get a two-star position.

Esperon likewise rejected the plan to relieve Lim from the Scout Rangers, noting that these are "critical times" and removing Lim



**BRIG. GEN. DANNY LIM:** I don't know anything about that.

AP

from his current post would cause demoralization, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Still another source said Lim would be given a two-star position to "appease him" for the "humiliation that he suffered as the only general under surveillance by the AFP."

Esperon did not respond to the INQUIRER's request for an interview.

A graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point in 1978, Lim has been Scout Ranger regimental commander since July 2003, a position that requires star rank. But he was promoted to brigadier general only in April.

## Promotion delayed

The promotion was delayed to appease more senior officers who would be bypassed by Lim, a source close to Lim said.

But promoting Lim to major general now would also see him jumping over officers from PMA Classes 1976 and 1977 who are still brigadier generals, according to the source.

Among those Lim would bypass would be Brig. Gen. Victor Ibradi, chief of the Special Forces, and Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, chief of the Armored Brigade. Ibrado and Maclang, both 1976 graduates of the PMA, were promoted to brigadier general in November 2003.

Lim, who was in the panel that negotiated amnesty for nearly 4,000 soldiers who were involved in the series of coups against President Aquino from 1987 to 1990, has been on the "watchlist" of the AFP Counter-Intelligence Group and the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

The source said Lim had been under monitoring even before the Hello Garci tapes were made public in June.

Apparently, Lim knew he was under surveillance after the counterintelligence team assigned to him "reported to him and even apologized for their assignment," said a source.



# Manila, Palace roll out red carpet for 3 boxing heroes

From page A1

Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, came and were cheered by hundreds of cheering fans.

Following simple rites at City Hall, the boxers led a motorcade that took them through the streets of Manila, allowing residents to catch a glimpse of the ring stars whose victories were a welcome break for a nation mired in political turmoil.

The motorcade passed through major streets in Tondo, Carriedo and Divisoria before proceeding to Malacañang, where the three had an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pacquiao, 26, an adopted son of the city, starred in the Sept. 11 world boxing event called "Double Trouble" where he defeated Mexican Hector Velasquez in six rounds.

In the undercard of Pacquiao's big night, Bautista and Vitoria scored sensational knockouts.

The 19-year-old Bautista stopped Felix Flores in the third round to stay undefeated in 16 bouts. He is the reigning World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion.

## Hawaiian punch

Vitoria, called the "Hawaiian Punch," became the new World Boxing Council light flyweight king after knocking out defending champion Eric Ortiz in the first round.

Before Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman paid her courtesy call, Ms Arroyo met with Pacquiao, Bautista and Vitoria.

The red carpet was rolled out for the three boxers who were congratulated by the President on a makeshift stage put up at the Kalayaan Hall grounds in Malacañang.



A STUDENT shrieks in delight as she holds the hand of boxing champion Brian Vitoria during a motorcade in Manila Monday. With Vitoria on the Hummer are other boxing champions Rey Bautista and Manny Pacquiao and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

REM ZAMORA

"Manny won after six rounds, Boom Boom after three rounds while Brian, after one round only," the President said.

## Pagulayan, too

She also congratulated Alex Pagulayan for being the US Open Billiards champion and Quigaman.

Ms Arroyo said the five Filipinos were the reason Filipinos were being regarded highly in the world.

The three boxing stars said they did not realize how much the ring victories that they had achieved meant to their fellow Filipinos.

"I am so proud to be a Filipino. I

am so honored to be part of the three people who, somehow, even for an hour or two, have become an instrument in creating peace in the country," Vitoria said.

Pacquiao reiterated his call for unity as he expressed gratitude to the Filipino people for supporting him all the way.

"Salamat sa dasal para manalo ako. Sana tuluyan nang magkaisa ang mga Pilipino. Alay ko sa bansa ang pagkapanalo ko. (Thank you for the prayers for my victory. I hope Filipinos can unite. I offer my victory to the people.)," he said.

Mayor Lito Atienza, who led city officials in honoring the three

boxing idols, said the trio's victories provided Filipinos with a welcome respite from the country's political crisis.

"They were like a breeze in the face. Their victories gave us respite from political hatred," Atienza said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

# Miss International given welcome fit for a queen

From page A1

International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman paraded up Ayala and Makati Avenues yesterday afternoon.

Glittering in a terno covered with gold sequins, Quigaman untiringly waved at her admirers, who lined the sidewalks and center islands of the Makati business district amid the occasional drizzle.

"I really want to thank everyone who has welcomed me. It warms my heart to know that I've put a smile on every Filipino's face. I really share this victory with everyone, with every Filipino all over the world," Quigaman told the media later at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where she had a quick stop before proceeding to a press conference at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

Quigaman arrived in Manila at 11:45 a.m. via Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 431 from Narita, Japan.

## Limousine

A downpour had just ended when Quigaman arrived in a white stretch limousine a little past 3 p.m. at the Makati Central Fire Station on the corner of Ayala Avenue and Gil Puyat, where her float waited.

A convoy of 10 vintage Corvettes, Mercedes Benzes and Volkswagens, as well as vehicles of sponsors, had lined up at the fire station as the parade's lead vehicles.

When the parade began at around 3:25 p.m., sidewalks along the route quickly filled with people waiting to see Quigaman, the first Filipino in 26 years to win the Miss International beauty pageant.

Commuters peered out of jeeps, buses and taxis to wave, while pedestrians stopped in awe of the 22-year-old fashion model. Makati's office workers left their buildings to catch a glimpse of Quigaman, even when it was still more than an hour before the end of business hours.

## Applause

Construction workers stood on scaffolding, heavy machinery, and upper levels of unfinished buildings to get a good view of the beauty queen.

Along the way, people applauded and called out Quigaman's nickname, Lara, to get her attention. Many took out their mobile camera phones to take a shot of the young woman, who responded with generous smiles



MOTHER Precy Quigaman and daughter Precious Quigaman share some private time at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before the new Miss International came out to meet the press.

ROGER MARGALLO

PRECIOUS waves to the crowds lining Ayala Avenue who were eager to see the new Miss International 2005.

ERIK ARAZAS



with the city's key instead of waiting for her at the area where she was supposed to make her arrival statement.

After Atienza greeted her, Quigaman's mother Precy, paternal grandmother Fuensanta, sister Jerika, and brothers John and Timothy followed suit.

The family kissed and hugged—a scene that the cameramen and photographers almost missed because it took place a couple of meters away from them.

Moreover, a couple of foreign media men, who arrived with the beauty queen, managed to get a closeup shot of the scene.

Not wanting to be scooped, the cameramen and photographers breached the red velvet ropes and crowded around Quigaman, practically pinning her and her family against the glass panel of the Presidential Lounge.

## Airport police

Within seconds, the airport police started to push back the media men, and pulled Quigaman, her family and Araneta inside the Presidential Lounge.

Minutes later, a smiling Araneta—a former beauty queen herself—appeared at the door to announce that Quigaman would be giving a short statement inside the lounge.

The media, which finally became orderly, was greeted by a smiling Quigaman who seemed oblivious to the bedlam that had taken place only minutes earlier.

At the brief press conference, she expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome she received here at home.

"Thank you very much for coming. I didn't expect this big

welcome. It feels great. You just don't know how I feel now seeing you all so proud that I won. You're making me cry," Precious said in a mix of Filipino and English, her voice cracking.

Flanked by her mother and Araneta, she shared her victory with all Filipinos who brought "glory" to the Philippines but were not given the same recognition she was.

The young woman whose victory became a breath of fresh air to her country added that her winning the Miss International crown should be an "inspiration" to Filipinos to take on the world's center stage.

"My prayer now is that this would be an inspiration (to us). That we will bear in mind that the world stage is not only for other nationalities but for us Filipinos, too. And we can achieve this if we're together in prayers," she said.

## Late father

On a personal note, she said her late father, who told her she would be an international beauty queen before he died recently, her mother, her family, and her friends were all her inspiration throughout the competition.

Precy, who worked as a nurse in London, fought back tears at the mention of her late husband. Precy said the family had "mixed emotions" about her daughter's bittersweet triumph at the pageant.

Despite the hectic schedule that awaits her as the reigning Miss International, she will always make time for her family Quigaman said.

She also gamely admitted that she was "in love" and that she had already spoken with her boyfriend. *With a report from DJ Yap*

and flying kisses.

Confetti rained down from Ayala Avenue's skyscrapers, brightening up the gloomy skies for Quigaman's arrival.

"I am speechless. When I saw the people throwing confetti, I was so happy, and they were telling me, 'we are so proud of you.' I can't explain my feelings but I'm very happy," Quigaman told reporters.

The parade took almost an hour to travel the stretch of Ayala Avenue from Gil Puyat to Hotel Drive, then from Makati Avenue corner Ayala to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

## Courtesy call

After briefly meeting with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Quigaman and her entourage quickly left for Quezon City.

The next stop was Malacañang where Quigaman paid President Macapagal-Arroyo a courtesy call.

At the Palace music room, the President shook hands with Quigaman, congratulating her

for bagging the title.

"We're so proud of you," Ms Arroyo told Quigaman.

As both women sat to exchange pleasantries, news photographers and cameramen, however, begged the President and Quigaman to stand up for another shot.

## Laughter

But the President remained in her seat as she told the media that she preferred to sit down, pointing out that Quigaman would tower over her. She then laughed, drawing laughter from those present in the room.

The 4'11" Ms Arroyo obliged later when the 5' 5 1/2" Quigaman stood up to present a picture of herself to the President.

"What a great moment not only for your family," the President told Quigaman.

Quigaman brought her mother and siblings to meet the President.

Also accompanying Quigaman to Malacañang was Binibining Pilipinas organizer Stella Araneta

and fashion designer Pitoy Moreno.

## Pandemonium

The orderly reception at Malacañang was in sharp contrast to the pandemonium that greeted her arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 2 hours earlier.

Nearly 30 minutes after the plane landed, Quigaman emerged in her gold terno and crown.

She was escorted by Araneta, general manager Alfonso Cusi of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) and other government officials. Flashing a bedimpled smile, she waved to the crowd that applauded her as the escalator carried her down.

## Grandmother

Chaos began seconds after Manila Mayor Jose Atienza, accompanied by son Kim and reigning Miss Chinatown Mary Grace Sy, walked up to Quigaman a few feet away from the escalator and presented her



# Makati agrees to slash proposed tax hikes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HEEDING APPEALS FROM THE business community, the city government of Makati City yesterday announced that it was likely to reduce tax rate increases proposed under its planned revenue code revision.

City Hall said yesterday that local officials were seriously considering this move after apprehensions from the city's broad business sector about the new tax

levels under the proposed new revenue code were aired.

"We would like to assure the business sector that adjustments, as proposed, are not final. We have heard the position of our taxpayers who are our valued clients and we will definitely reduce these proposed tax rates," Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, City Council presiding officer, said in a statement yesterday.

The City Council arrived at the decision after wrapping up public

hearings on the proposed revenue code, where businessmen from Makati-based establishments, including those in banking and finance, hotels and restaurants, construction, real estate, services, printing and publication, and other firms aired their positions on the tax adjustments.

A City Hall source said officials were contemplating on cutting by as much as one half the proposed tax rate hikes, once the proposed revenue was tackled at the City

Council floor by November.

"Deferring the approval of our Revenue Code, however, is not in our agenda," said Mercado.

It would be the first time that Makati, home of the country's main business hub, would be increasing its tax rates since 1992, when it was still a municipality. The proposed increases ranged from 10 percent to double the existing levels.

Among the highest rates drafted were those for banks and fi-

nancial institutions, where new tax rates were proposed from the current 0.15 percent of gross annual receipts to 0.3 percent. Tax rates for hotels were also proposed from 0.5 percent of annual sales to 0.75 percent.

The business sector had aired concerns about Makati's position on increasing business taxes, and said that Makati-based firms might decide to relocate to cities with lower tax rates once city taxes were raised.

But City Secretary Rogelio Marasigan said the tax adjustments would keep the city at competitive levels, and were meant to help boost Makati's income to fund the delivery of basic services.

Amid Makati's tax rate hike plan, neighboring Taguig City expressed its intention to reduce its business taxes in anticipation of firms that could relocate their businesses once Makati's new revenue code takes effect.

## Search on for top youth groups

By DJ Yap

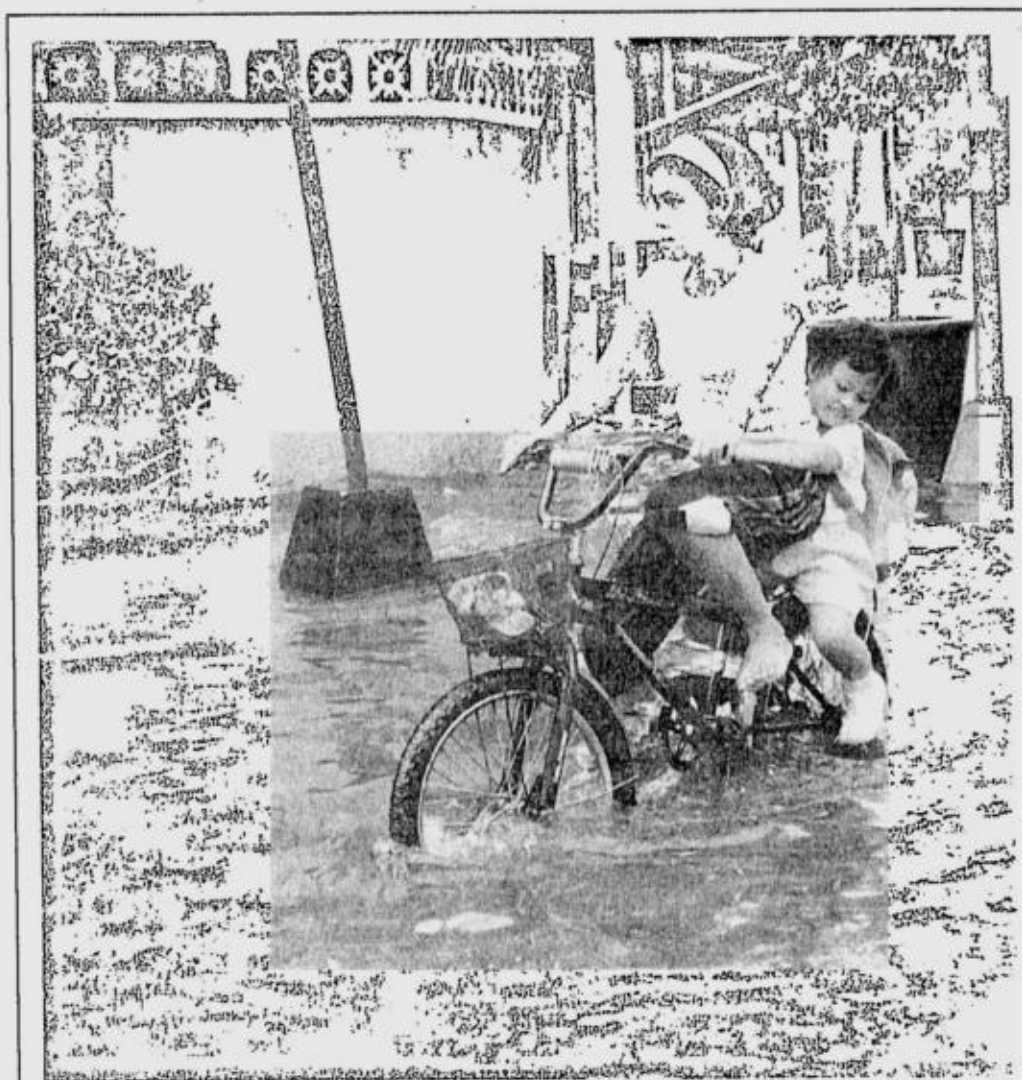
THERE CAN BE NO DEARTH OF IDEAS among young people in big groups—ideas that could make a difference.

As the search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (Tayo) enters its fourth year, the best ideas from tomorrow's leaders will once again be honored for bringing hope to a troubled nation.

The National Youth Commission with Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan led the launching of the annual Tayo search yesterday in Quezon City. NYC chair Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said the youth can teach their elders about unity and dedication, and inspire them to action.

"The youth want to make a difference and to be active players in building a better Philippines," said Cecilia Alcantara, president of Coca-Cola Foundation, one of the sponsors.

Tayo seeks to reward, recognize and encourage youth organizations nationwide through programs and projects that benefit their localities. It is open to all youth groups with at least 15 members whose ages are between 15 to 30 years old. Other sponsors of the event are Tayo Awards Foundation, Mirant Philippines, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Caltex Philippines and Cebu Pacific.



**TWO FOR THE ROAD**

A mother takes her daughter to school on board a trusty bicycle across a flooded street in Makati City.

REM ZAMORA

## National Museum told to explain Arroceros stand

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA) wants National Museum officials to clarify their stand on the construction of an educational facility inside the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila.

LLDA chief Casimiro Ynares III said he would invite museum representatives to the agency's dialogue with Winner Foundation, the group opposing any construction in the park.

Ynares said he expected differences in the interpretation of the latest report from the National Museum. The museum said its June 14 certification, used by the LLDA as basis for issuing a certificate of non-coverage (CNC) for the Manila project, was not a permit to build.

The LLDA maintained, however, that the Aug. 25 report, signed by National Museum Director Corazon Alvina, did not change the basis for the CNC.

"Based on what they said in the latest report, it's clear that they are fine with the building; they just want some changes incorporated," Ynares told the INQUIRER.

He said the CNC given to the Manila Division

of City Schools would stay because the new report did not revoke the National Museum's June 14 certification.

"But there might be differences in our interpretation of the new report, so it would be better if the National Museum would be there," he said.

### Not a permit to build

In Alvina's report, the National Museum denied giving the green light for the construction of a two-story building inside Arroceros park, classified as an archeological site.

Alvina said the certification issued by the museum on June 14 was "not a permit to build, but rather a certification interposing no objection to the limited excavation within the Arroceros Park as preparatory and initial works for the project."

Even as it made the clarification, the museum asked the Manila city government to change the building design. The project would involve the cutting of trees, which environmentalists are opposing.

Citing the results of the month-long materials assessment and inventory done by the Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas Inc. (KAPI), Alvina said there were immovable

stone structures that must be integrated in the development plan.

"Modifications on the architectural design of the DepEd (Department of Education) building are strongly advised to avoid disruption of the structures. These must be preserved by all means," Alvina said, quoting KAPI's recommendations.

"Efforts must be exhausted to suitably contain, preserve these remains within and without a building envelope," she said in her report dated Aug. 25.

Ynares said the recommendations indicated that the National Museum would ultimately approve the construction.

"They wanted safeguards. In short, they're going to have the building. And the LLDA's certificate of non-coverage is totally dependent on what the museum says," he said.

The two-page report containing KAPI's recommendations was attached to Alvina's letter to Winner Foundation, the park developer that has been opposing the construction of any structure inside the area to preserve the forest.

The foundation asked the LLDA to revoke the CNC and issue a cease-and-desist order against the Manila Division of City Schools.

## METROBRIEFS

### 4 policemen in hot water

THE EASTERN Police District has started summary dismissal proceedings against four of its policemen implicated in several robberies in Metro Manila and Rizal. "We have forwarded their case folders to the National Capital Region Police Office," district director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela told the INQUIRER. The policemen are also facing kidnapping and robbery with homicide charges in Calinta, Rizal. PO1 Candido Vallejo, PO1 Roel Palana and PO1 Roger Villarente were arrested for the foiled robbery in Calinta on Sept. 14. Erica Charlene Guevarra, 1, was killed in the incident. Their alleged cohort, PO2 Joel Tapee, who was arrested earlier for another robbery but managed to post bail, remains at large. The four, assigned at the Pasig City Police before they were transferred to the District Mobile Force last month, have also been linked to the kidnapping of Chinese-Filipino Michael Chan, 44, who was found dead in Antipolo City on Sept. 17. The four are suspected to be members of a robbery-kidnap gang called the "Demolition Team," also known as "Dose Pares." Investigators said seven members of the group are active policemen. Last week, the three arrested suspects allegedly implicated yet another policeman, PO2 Allan Verana, as part of the group who kidnapped Chan. Verana is assigned at the complaint desk of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region. Verana has denied the accusations, but was included in the kidnapping charges filed in Calinta. Vallejo, Palana and Villarente also denied the charges when they were presented to the media last week. Police have launched nationwide manhunt operations against Tapee.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

### Better jail facilities in Marikina City

SPACE for outdoor exercises. A bigger cell away from adult suspects. And a toilet "fit for a home, not for a jail." If things go as planned, minor offenders at the Marikina City Jail can look forward to enjoying little "luxuries" like these, thanks to the efforts of a socio-civic group which has been conducting workshops and counseling for the minor offenders at the City Jail. The 37 minors will be transferred to their new detention cell less than two weeks from now, child welfare volunteer Nadeia Sarte said. Because of budget constraints, youth offenders at the City Jail had been staying in a cell, which, though separated by iron bars, is adjacent to the cells of adult detainees at the fifth floor of the new City Justice Building. "Minors should not be exposed to the influences of older suspects," Sarte said. Her group finally managed to get donations to put up a cell for the minor offenders on the sixth floor, away from the cells of the adult suspects. Levi Espiritu, president of a construction company, had donated three toilets for the facility, Sarte said. Iron bars had also been put up. There is also an open area where the children could hold outdoor games. The cell is almost complete except for the children's sleeping decks. But City Jail Warden Pio Capistrano said they had yet not scheduled the transfer of the minors to their improved quarters. Sarte, however, is keeping her fingers crossed she could meet her original target of moving the children on Oct. 15.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

### Pasay's free ambulance service for poor

A MULTICAB turned into an ambulance has been ferrying sick residents in the city's impoverished areas in Pasay City since 2002. The Sagip Buhay project was launched primarily to bring patients who could not afford to pay for ambulance services to hospitals, explained Councilor Edith Vergel de Dios. The lone vehicle, equipped with a portable oxygen, a nebulizer, a blood pressure apparatus and medical kits, is on standby 24 hours daily at a small office on M. Dela Cruz Street. The Sagip Buhay office employs 18 trained personnel on a 12-hour shift. When responding to emergency calls, three staffers attend to the patient. Since it was launched on Sept. 16, 2002, the project has helped more than 2,000 poor people, mostly from the city's District 2, consisting of around 201 barangays with roughly 300,000 residents, 70 percent of whom are poor, said Vergel de Dios. "This project is a big help to our poor residents," said officer-in-charge of Sagip Buhay, Mike Decena. The free ambulance service mostly responds to crime incidents and accidents within the jurisdiction of Pasay City, he said. But the councilor hopes to add another ambulance so they can extend their service to other residents in the city's first district, especially in the Malibay and Maricaban areas. "Time is of the essence when responding to emergencies," she said. The Sagip Buhay hotline is 4588817.

Jocelyn R. Uy

## Miriam's tale hard to believe

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO's story about a plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo in a coup d'état or, failing that, in the hands of an assassin, is hard to believe.

The plotters, Santiago said, were former President Cory Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

I have no love lost for Cory, but she is incapable of planning an assassination, her husband Senator Ninoy a victim of an assassination plot himself. Cory may be a vindictive person, but she's definitely not the violent type.

As for Drilon, I may not agree with him on his call for GMA to resign, but he also abhors violence. This lawmaker uses his brilliant mind in having his way.

Santiago said she learned about the Cory-Drilon plot from Drilon's talkative relative who "chattered" about a conspiracy. Why Santiago, a brilliant former judge, would give credence to hearsay is beyond me. Has she lost her marbles, one is tempted to ask.

It's a good thing the government has scrapped the oppressive stock distribution scheme between the Hacienda Luisita management and farmer-tenants or workers. Oppressive, of course, to the workers and tenant-farmers and beneficial to the family of former President Cory. The 5,000-hectare hacienda was exempted from the Comprehensive Agrarian

### ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



Reform Program (CARP). Under CARP, all medium-size and large farms were subdivided among their tenant-farmers.

When CARP was implemented, Ms Aquino was President. Since she was the country's Chief Executive at that time, nobody questioned the stock distribution scheme. The stocks distributed among the tenant-farmers and workers were useless pieces of paper. The poor hacienda farmers and workers were still slaves to the soil and toil. Now, Hacienda Luisita is no longer the sole property of the Cojuangcos. The farmers and workers will soon own it.

The plight of the farmers and workers at Luisita would not have surfaced if they didn't stage a strike. The strike resulted in the killing of some farmers and workers when the military conducted a dispersal operation. It became a cause célèbre. The violence at Luisita caused a rift between Ms Aquino and the President. Cory thought GMA should have intervened in favor of the hacienda man-

agement. She got back at the President by siding with people calling for her ouster. Cory should have mulled over her decision to join the oust-GMA movement a thousand times before making the move. Now, she's the loser in the end. GMA, having a built-in advantage, naturally retaliated by having the government take a hard look at the plight of the farmers and workers at Luisita. Cory should have known that you can't fight City Hall, even if you're its former occupant.

The Philippine Air Force mothballed the last of its F-5 fighter jet which once proudly flew our skies.

With the decommissioning of the F-5, the country no longer has jet fighters to defend Philippine airspace. The country is in bad shape when it comes to defending itself against foreign invaders. We have an Air Force without planes, a Navy without ships and an Army that has outmoded weapons. Even our Philippine National Police (PNP) doesn't have enough guns for its members.

There used to be a time when we had the best Air Force and Navy in this part of Asia. All of our ships and planes were new and in great fighting form. Those new ships and planes in the 1950s and 1960s had either crashed, sunk or had been retired.

## INQUIRER Platinum Code



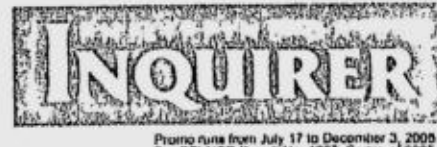
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\*To join, initially send PDI-space>20-space>answer-space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI-space>20-space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

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# Court acquits suspects in actress' killing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A FATHER AND SON CRIED, hugged each other and thanked God yesterday morning after a court found them not guilty of killing former child actress Strawberry.

In her 26-page decision, Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray of the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court Branch 202, cited reasonable doubt as the reason for acquitting Reynaldo Picar and his sons Ronald and Mark Ryan.

"My family has suffered for four

years because of the case. But the truth has surfaced," Reynaldo told reporters yesterday.

## Minus one

Mark Ryan was not present when the decision was read.

Ronald, who was identified as the triggerman, hugged his tearful mother tightly as the judge read the verdict.

The Picars were accused of killing Strawberry, whose real name is Anouk Baldo, on Dec. 18, 2001 after a traffic altercation at the gate of BF Executive

Village in Las Piñas City.

Strawberry, then 25, was shot three times in the head and was comatose for two days before she died.

In her decision, Guray said that although the Picars were at the scene of the crime, there was no witness to say with "utmost certainty" that they had fired the gun that killed Strawberry.

"Also, the prosecution failed to show that the Picars were the only ones in a position to shoot Strawberry on the basis of the entrance of the bullet on the left side window of

the car," the judge added.

However, the court made it clear that the not guilty verdict did not mean the accused were "totally spotless and guiltless" of the crime.

"It only means that the prosecution failed in its duty to overcome the presumption laid down by our fundamental laws in favor of the accused," the judge said.

Ronald said his family still believed in the justice system in the country.

"We had nothing to do with it. *Hindi natutulog ang Diyos*," Ronald said.

So who shot Strawberry?

This was the question asked by the victim's family after the court decision was handed down.

## 'Incredible'

"My daughter is dead and nobody's responsible for it. This is incredible," said Oscar Baldo.

The victim's aunt, Aida Sy, said they would still find "ways and means" to identify the real killer.

"We have a lousy police system. We have lousy technology. If we have to send the evidence to the United States we will," vowed Sy.



STRAWBERRY



## Caloocan wants gender equality

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE CALOOCAN CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED an ordinance creating a body to strengthen women's rights and promote their role as equal partners of men in nation-building.

The Gender Development Council (GDC) will formulate policies for the protection of women and children and ensure the strict implementation of existing laws on gender and development.

The body would be headed by Councilor Nora Nubla. City Mayor Enrico Echiverri will be honorary chair.

The GDC was created in accordance with Republic Act 7192 on the Integration of Women as Full and Equal Partners of Men in Development.

"It (GDC) would spearhead the city's initiatives on gender and development (GAD)," Echiverri said.

The City Council, Echiverri said, should allocate funds for the new body's various programs as mandated by law.

To guarantee the committee's success, a technical group composed of representatives of various departments of the local government was set up, the mayor added.

The technical group's primary duty was to monitor GAD's progress and prepare various related programs and activities for the city's women population, according to Echiverri.

Among the activities lined up are orientation, briefings, and information and education campaigns to disseminate women's rights and privileges.

The group would also organize "gender trainers" and initiate the setting up of focal points in various barangay.

It would also coordinate with national agencies and institutions to acquire skills on the subjects.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

## Blessing good for pets' health

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR TWO YEARS STRAIGHT, GIGI VARNA, 23, had been bringing her two dogs to an animal blessing ceremony with the hopes that the rituals would be good for her pets' health.

"Mackie and Maddy had not been sick since I had them blessed at Santuario de San Jose in Makati last year," Varna said in an interview at Eastwood City in Libis, Quezone City, where a special Mass for animals was held Saturday.

The event was also an unusual way for her pets to "socialize" with other animals, she added.

Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) director Anna Hashim-Cabrera said animal awareness in the country has increased in recent years as shown by the growing number of owners and pets attending such events.

But the event would have to look for a different venue the next time around.

"This is the last year we would hold animal blessings in churches," Cabrera said. "We are planning to hold future blessings in a public and more pet-friendly place because of the huge crowds that gather for the affair."

The PAWS director said they had been celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi by organizing events that encourage affection and care for all animals.

The saint is known for his love of animals.

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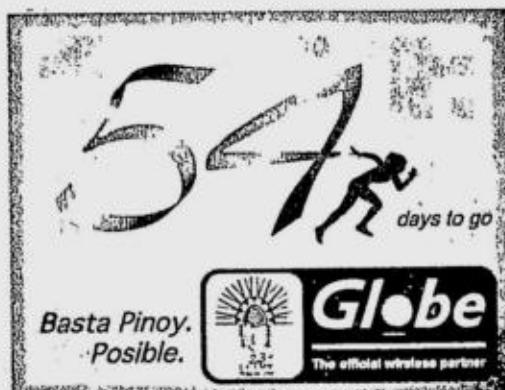
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## SPORTS

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



Junior Archers go for the jugular /A22



WHAT'S INSIDE  
5th straight Touring crown for Coseteng /A22



Choi, Maruyama post 1-2 US PGA finish /A23

# PBF prepared to dissolve so Fiba may revoke ban

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL FEDERATION WILL HAPPILY dissolve to pave the way for the lifting of the Fiba (international basketball federation) suspension and the eventual holding of the cage competitions in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"I think that is the way we are heading," said PBF president Mauricio "Moying" Martelino yesterday. "The BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines) and the PBF are out. It's a requirement in the Fiba and POC (memorandum of agreement).

"If it will unite basketball, I have no problem with it."

Under the agreement forged between Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann in Geneva last

week, the world body wants a new structure to govern basketball in the country.

Martelino said the PBF is "90 percent of what the Fiba is asking for," adding his group was organized, "to get the stakeholders of basketball together."

Only the absence of BAP president Joey Lina from the group prevents the Fiba from recognizing the PBF, according to Joey Romasanta, an incorporator of the PBF, in a separate interview with the INQUIRER.

"I just cannot imagine how he (Lina) will fit in," Romasanta said bluntly. "He does not represent a league and the PBF was designed as such—to get the leagues together."

Lina is the only personality among five

stakeholders named by the Fiba as a mandatory member of the new organization under the deal forged between the POC and Fiba.

Officials of the BAP, meanwhile, were reportedly deep in a meeting at the Manila Hotel yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Martelino said he informed the PBF members of the new development yesterday morning. He was briefed by Cojuangco Sunday night.

The professional Philippine Basketball Association, Philippine Basketball League, the NCAA, UAAP and Lina were named in the memo as "must be members" in the



MARTELINO: Everyone is amenable.

new structure for Fiba to lift its caging ban.

"I've talked to the (PBF) members already," said Martelino. "Everyone welcomes this. Because this, in essence, is what the PBF stands for, a united basketball front."

Martelino said all basketball leaders "must act as quickly as possible," with the SEAG less than two months away.

## She misses one flight but catches another

By Jasmine W. Payo

HER DREAM WAS TO FLY, TRAVEL to exotic places, enjoy the sights, see the world.

But she was not meant to be a stewardess. With her towering height of 5-foot-9, Filipino-Japanese Machiko Matsuno instead found herself soaring against opponents for baskets inside the court.

"I wanted to be an international stewardess," said the bubbly 18-year-old Matsuno, center of the Philippine women's basketball team.

"I didn't expect to be part of the RP Team. My teammates

are very good. Sometimes, I even wonder if I should be here. Maybe it's just because of my height."

But head coach Raymond Celis certainly saw more than that.

"She has good footwork," he noted. "She's very aggressive and has this uncanny knack of rebounding the ball."

Apparently, Matsuno was just quite modest. She is, after all, no stranger on the hardwood.

"I learned basketball in Japan," she said. "I started playing at 10 years old. I just learned from my friends and from my PE classes. I also joined our basketball club. When I was 12, I was already the tallest in class at

162 centimeters."

At an early age, Matsuno made an impact in her school's varsity team. And among the highlights of her young career was bagging the Most Valuable Player plum in an inter-city league in Japan.

"I ran fast and I was tall," she recalled. "That was my advantage in junior high school."

But after living for 14 years in Japan, her family decided to relocate to her mother's hometown in Occidental Mindoro. Thus, Matsuno had to focus her time in adjusting to her new life.

"I didn't know how to speak Tagalog," she said. "Even if I had a tutor, it was very hard learning [the language]. I was also studying in high school in Mindoro. At that time, I didn't play basketball at all."

Yet it became clear that Matsuno has innate basketball skills when she moved to Manila for college.

Suiting up for the College of the Holy Spirit, she clinched the Rookie of the Year award and became a Mythical Team member in the 2004 Women's College Sports Association, a basketball league for exclusive schools for girls.

"I think I scored 30 points in one game, but my real strength was in rebounding," said Matsuno, who looks up to Far Eastern University star Arwind Santos.

Matsuno then became a member of the RP Youth squad before Celis elevated her to the women's team last February. She transferred to Lyceum College, where most of her teammates are studying.

Although she has accepted her new role coming off the bench, Matsuno continues to take her game seriously.

"I'm the type of player who cries, who gets angry when we lose," she said. "I'm emotional. Even if it's just a tune-up game and we lose, I still cry." Right now, Celis wants Matsuno to work on her outside shooting.

"If she wants to excel in international competition, she has to extend her range and improve her dribbling skills," he said.

"But she has improved a lot especially in our international games," added Celis. "In one of our tune-up games, we pulled off a win over Papua New Guinea. They were very tall and they had a 6-foot-4 center. But she held her own against much bigger opponents. She has a bright future ahead of her in women's basketball."



MICHELLE Laborte and Cecille Tabuena show their trophies after topping the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball tourney at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

## Navy's Laborte-Tabuena tops beach volley meet

MICHELLE LABORTE AND CECILLE TABUENA, thriving under the strong evening breeze, gave Philippine Navy the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament title late Sunday with a 21-10, 21-9 triumph over Suzanne Rocas and Abigail Escandor at the Manila Baywalk.

As winds blew harder in the first set, Tabuena hit the ball a little harder and gave Navy a 10-4 edge with her placement shots.

Rocas and Escandor, playing out of the University of the East, were no longer in control as intermittent winds continued in the second set.

By this time, the Navy stalwarts softened their approach, with Laborte's booming smashes handing the Navy a 5-0 lead at the start of the second set.

"The wind was strong, but we trained for it," said Laborte, a veteran of many Asian Championships, in Filipino. "In Thailand, we played by the seaside. We were able to adjust."

Tabuena, who was raised in Joyao-Joyao, in Numangia, Aklan, kept her team on top in

the second set with a pair of aces, 15-5.

The win earned Laborte and Tabuena the top purse of P10,000 while Rocas and Escandor settled for the runner-up prize of P5,000.

The beach volley fiesta sponsored by Petron was held in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council (Masco). It is backed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Villa de Oro, Acsat, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball).

Laborte and Tabuena said they will now get ready for their stint in the coming 2005 Southeast Asian Games, which will be held at their school at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod.

Navy took the easy route to the finals after beating Sherry Ann Garcia and Patricia Taganas, 21-12, in the semis.

Escandor and Rocas made it after surviving a playoff with Rolyn Marquicias and Sheryl Laborte, 22-19. Marquicias and Laborte forced the playoff when they prevailed in their first encounter, 21-13.



WHAT'S Machiko Matsuno doing in the RP women's team? The tall, comely Japanese-Filipina is the squad's greatest asset inside the paint. RYAN LIM

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# 5th straight Touring crown for Coseteng

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—SAN MIGUEL BEER driver Jody Coseteng came away with another powerful sweep in the sixth and penultimate leg Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit here to secure the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship.

By dominating both races in his Honda-Erg car, Coseteng clinched his fifth straight crown with an unbeatable 177 points in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Coseteng clocked 30 minutes 18.74 seconds to rule the morning race over Philip Alvendia of A3



COSETENG

Motorsports-Malayan Automaster National Touring Team and Dominic Bon.

Coseteng later sent the gallery howling in excitement as he slipped past erstwhile leader Enzo Pastor in the 26-man combined race to seal his title-clinching feat. The two battled for the lead midway through the 12-lap race until they got caught up in a traffic jam with the backmarkers.

As Pastor got trapped, Coseteng managed to squeeze out of the mess and pulled away to win in 33:50.046, 2.727 seconds ahead of runner-up Kookie Ramirez.

"It was a tough season, but thanks to the all-

out support of San Miguel, we successfully defended the crown for the fifth straight year," said Coseteng who's also eyeing the coveted Driver of the Year plum in the AAR.

Renan Morales also topped the National Junior Touring Car Championship of this event sponsored by Petron Ultron, Kilton Motors, Yokohama Tires and Pilipinas Shell.

Morales finished seventh overall in the morning combined race with a time of 31:44.133 to beat Bosch Intelco drivers Bingo Valero and third placer JP Carino and won the final race over JP Carino and Thirdsy Icasas.

## UST, UE jins rule Petron inter-school taekwondo

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND UNIVERSITY of the East led the winners in the recent Petron national inter-school taekwondo championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

UST banked on the gold-medal victories of finweight Rey Vincent David, flyweight Billy Corral and lightweight Kelvin Tabago to emerge overall titlist in the men's senior advance competition.

UE's female jins, powered by gold winners Rochelle Lavalan (fly), Jessica Ballesteros (bantam) and Azelea Nucup (lightweight), ruled the senior women's and advance division.

Coach Dindo Simpao's UST bets also won two silvers as they beat San Beda (2 golds, 3 silvers, 2 bronzes) and Ateneo de Manila (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze).

Handled by Ramon Tusi, the UE belles added one silver and one bronze to their three golds to whip UST (1 gold, 2 silvers, 3 bronzes) and Far Eastern University (1 gold, 1 bronze).

### The other overall champions:

Philippine Christian University (2 golds, 1 silver, 1 bronze), senior men, novice; Rizal Technological University (1 gold, three silvers), senior women, novice; Rizal High School (2 golds), junior men, novice; School of St. Anthony (2 golds, 1 silver, 1 bronze), junior women, novice; Juan Sumulong Memorial Jr. College (1 gold, 3 silvers), junior men, advance; Juan Sumulong Memorial Jr. college (2 golds, 1 silver), junior women, advance; UE (1 gold, silver, 1 bronze), mid-junior men, novice; UE (1 gold, 2 silvers), mid-junior women, novice; Letran College, 2 golds, 4 silvers, 1 bronze), mid-junior men, advance; Rizal High School (2 golds), mid-junior women, advance; Juan Sumulong Memorial Jr. College (2 golds, 1 silver, 3 bronzes), boys, novice; Aldana Elementary School (2 golds, 1 silver), girls, novice; Fort Bonifacio Elementary School (1 gold, 1 bronze, 4 players), boys, advance; and SV-Olympia (1 gold, 1 silver), girls, advance.

## We won't let it slip away —Pumaren

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL Game 1 now behind them, the La Salle Archers' focus is back on the hardcourt.

"We won't just let it (UAAP crown) slip away from us," said coach Franz Pumaren as his Archers try to level the series in Game 2 of the UAAP basketball Finals on Thursday.

"We worked hard for this and we'll make sure that we can bounce back."

Aside from falling short at crunch time, the Archers also wouldn't want a repeat of the near-brawl at the end of Game 1.

"Next game, we have to watch out for players thrash talking during the game," said Pumaren.

The league slapped a lifetime ban on La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado last Friday for assaulting Far Eastern U superstar Arwind Santos seconds after the final buzzer.

Santos had earlier buried a game-tying triple and the deciding putback that gave the Tamaraws a come-from-behind 75-73 victory over the defending champions.

### GAMES THURSDAY

(Araneta Coliseum)

11 a.m.—Ateneo vs

Adamson

(Women-Game 2)

1 p.m.—La Salle vs

UP (Jrs-Game 2)

3 p.m.—Awards rites

3:30 p.m.—Far

Eastern vs La Salle

(Srs-Game 2)

Salgado rushed to the court after the buzzer as if to pacify La Salle hot-shot Joseph Yeo and Santos, who were exchanging words. Instead, he hit Santos at the back of the head and fled.

"It seems the rivalry will be more intense than the

Ateneo-La Salle games because of the incident," noted Pumaren.

The eight-year mentor, though, remained confident that his Archers can pull off back-to-back wins to claim their second straight crown.

"This is going to be a long series," he said. "We've been in this (situation) before. Rising from it, that's one way of differentiating a good team from a great team."

Yeo had a sensational performance for the Archers, pumping in 26 points on top of a game-high six assists.

But Santos proved too much for the Taft Avenue-based squad, exploding for 29 points, 14 rebounds, two steals and three blocked shots.



DE LA SALLE Zobel's Martin Reyes bounces a pass off Daniel Olan of University of the Philippines Integrated School during their game Sunday. The Junior Archers prevailed, 73-49, to take a 1-0 lead in their Finals series.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## FEI-Cavite dribblers lift Espiritu Cup

FAR EASTERN INSURANCE-CAVITE USED A BIG third-quarter run to trounce last year's champion San Sebastian College Recoletos-Cavite, 89-75, and clinch the ninth Danny Espiritu Cup basketball crown Saturday at the Washington gym in Makati City.

After trailing in the first half, the Insurers of Bacoar Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar leaned on ex-pro Marvin Ortiguerra to outgun the Stags, 29-11, en route to a 69-55 lead going into the playoff period.

Ortiguerra, who was named the tournament's most valuable player, paced the Insurers with 22 points. Jay-Ar Estrada backed him up with 19.

Earlier, an undermanned Boy Bawang squad shocked playing team manager Mike Dulas' Mediatrix Telecoms, 98-93, to clinch third spot.

Prolific playmaker Niño Marquez led the six-man Boy Bawang team with 31 points.

Ortiguerra made it to the Mythical Fives together with teammates Jay Sierra, Niño Marquez, Gleen Bolocan and Jan Philip Villaber.

Danny Espiritu, the popular player agent, presented the prizes during the awards ceremony.

## Pro league strategizes to lure more fans



EALA: Focus on fans

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION is expecting a return of investment almost twice as big as the amount the pro league is spending for its operations for the 2005-06 season.

Commissioner Noli Eala refused to divulge the figures but said the league is looking to increase its revenue by 197 percent through an aggressive and viable marketing strategy.

League sources said the PBA Board of Governors has earmarked at least P100 million this season for the league's expenditures, including the salaries of employees and the upkeep of the PBA offices at the PhilSports in Pasig City.

"The (PBA) board's executive committee has

reviewed the budget thoroughly and found that the projected 197-percent net increase in revenue is indeed realistic," said Eala.

The executive committee is made up of PBA chair Ely Capacio, vice chair Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text and Red Bull's Tony Chua, treasurer.

To drum up interest and lure the fans back, the league is staking a brand-new car and a subdivision property courtesy of Sta. Lucia Realty, aside from raffle and in-venue game prizes costing over P1 million.

Additional marketing novelties include putting up billboards and other promo gimmicks in strategic places to create public awareness.

The 31st season of the PBA opened last Sunday with the 15,023 paying fans treated to open-

ing rites unprecedented in league history.

"It's good to have the crowd back, but how to maintain their enthusiasm is the big question as of the moment," said Capacio of the impressive turnout, attributed mainly to the P5 bleacher admission, at the 20,000-seat Araneta Coliseum.

Capacio added that the league has started to implement pre-season marketing plans.

Eala said the operational expenses of the league would be slashed by at least 25 percent to make the projections realistic and attainable.

The league said it has been successful in cutting down the expenditures. A team governor said the PBA managed to bring down the budget from as high as P160 million per season to P100 million in the last five years.

## 'Golem'

### SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN YOU FIND A golf course whose grounds chief works for free?

Meaning, the guy who keeps the course in shape 366 days a year does not receive a single centavo for his efforts.

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And he works there not seven but, as the Beatles sang it, "eight days a week."

A Guinness stuff, won't you agree?

Ramon Uy, the guy who got the man for the job with much eggging from Jojo Quilop and Joe Cajili, has to even beg—on bended knees most of the time—his recruit to sign for his meals at the club.

In an astonishing revelation that I had discovered, the man even rarely eats at the clubhouse.

That golf course is in Bacolod, the City of Smiles in the province of Negros Occidental, on the island of Panay in Western Visayas.

I refer to the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club, a 6,000-yard-plus, par-70 course off Barangay Bata in Marapara going to Silay City up north from the center of Bacolod.

The man I am referring to is Luis "Golem" Silverio.

If you are a jungolfer and you don't know who Golem is, you are forgiven.

Otherwise, if you know nothing about Golem, quit golf.

OK, for politeness sake, here's Golem for you: He is not only the best Filipino golfer who never turned pro, but also the best Asian golfer ever who never turned pro.

In his time, no golfer in Asia, pro or amateur, could beat him.

Do you happen to know Bobby Jones?

If not, here's one about Bobby Jones. He was

the world's best golfer who never turned pro. And here's another: Bobby Jones built Augusta National in Augusta, Georgia, the permanent home of The Masters, the world's most prestigious tournament among all four majors in golf.

When Bobby Jones learned about the exploits of Golem in Asia, the American invited Golem to The Masters. That made Golem the first amateur from Asia to be invited to The Masters.

The next year, Bobby Jones invited Golem again, making Golem the first ever amateur from Asia to get invited twice to The Masters.

Ben Arda and Frankie Miñoza were both pros when they played in The Masters but, unlike Golem, were never given repeat invitations.

The case of Luis "Golem" Silverio is so amazing I now consider him the equivalent of the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Golem has won virtually all titles in Asia, including the Putra and Nomura crowns many times. His record as the only Filipino amateur to win the Philippine Open (in 1966) remains unbroken.

Because he has won the Philippine Amateur title so many times, Golem has forgotten how many times he's won it, which was nine—including a streak of five from 1970.

"That many?" he said, when I reminded him about it during the Philippine Amateurs held at

Bacolod's NOGCC last week.

Because of his fame, Golem is almost synonymous with Bacolod. He is Bacolod's walking monument, the symbol of golf perfection.

And yet, seemingly, some members of his home club can't seem to appreciate what the guy has been doing there for months now, never mind that he's put Bacolod in the world sporting map.

I know. I was there for a week or so. From Sunday to Sunday.

The fairways, you may ask?

They can put to shame some of Metro Manila's alleged finest golf clubs.

The greens, you may ask?

At this time of the year, when the rains resurrect all kinds of virus, the greens there are a delight to putt you can liken them to the greens of Sta. Elena, The Country Club, Manila Golf Club, Southwoods, Wack Wack and Riviera.

The NOGCC that I saw during the PAL Interclub in February was a far cry from the NOGCC that I saw during last week's Philippine Amateurs organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

All because Golem had decided to go home to Bacolod after 17 years as general manager of Tony Boy Cojuangco's Calatagan.

All because of Golem, still trim and lean at 69, who designed the NOGCC himself in 1961.

"Had I not returned to Bacolod," said Golem, who came back some years ago, "I might be dead by now. The air I breathe here is so fresh I am very much alive again."

All of Bacolod should start savoring the joy of having a rare jewel in their midst—while there's still time.

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E-mail: menjun@pldstsl.net

## Southwoods big winner in ITF junior tourney

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS Tennis Academy emerged as the biggest winner in the recent Phinma-International Tennis Federation Junior Championships Week 2 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig City.

Miguel Narvaez, one of Manila Southwoods' leading students, swept the boys' singles and doubles events to capture top honors in the week-long championships.

Narvaez, at 17 one of the country's brightest hopes in tennis, brought down third seed Nico Riego De Dios, 7-5, 4-6, 2-0 (retired), to capture his first-ever ITF junior title. Narvaez then teamed up with Fendy Gunawan of Indonesia to turn back top seed Australians Hugh McDonauld and William McNamee, 6-3, 7-6

(8-6), and pocket the doubles title.

Fil-Estate Sports Foundation/Manila Southwoods chair Robert John Sobrepeña lauded Narvaez's achievements, saying his twin triumphs validated the academy's long-term program to produce world-class Filipino tennis players.

"We're very proud of this newest achievements of Narvaez," said Sobrepeña, a former tennis player himself. "His success is also the success of the whole MSTA, whose main objective is to produce world-class Filipino tennis players."

Sobrepeña also lauded MSTA coach Manny Tecson, crediting him for the vast improvement in Narvaez's game.

For inquiries about the MSTA, call Len Gregorio at 046-4300260.

## Lagman, Sisos earn finals trip

ILOILO—JACOB LAGMAN WHIPPED Carl Suriga, 6-0, 6-0, Monday in the unisex 10-under final at the Provincial Sports Complex Tennis Club here to lead fellow Cebuano Bernardine and Sally Mae Siso to the National Finals and earn a crack at the Malaysia trip grand prize of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup.

Bernardine routed Ralph Sobrevaga, 6-2, 6-1, for the boys' 12-under crown, while sister Sal-

ly Mae whipped Kristel Buena-cosa, 6-2, 6-2, in the girls' 14-under final of the Milo tournament organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas.

Lagman and the Siso siblings will be joined in the National Finals in Manila by fellow champions Reonil Fuentes, who beat Nestor Pueyo Jr., 6-3, 6-2, in the boys' 14-under, and Martina Guba, who routed Jodie Gaboy, 6-0, 6-0, in girls' 12 play.



# Choi, Maruyama post historic 1-2 US PGA finish

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA—K.J. Choi and Shigeki Maruyama became the first Asian-born players to enjoy a 1-2 finish on the US PGA Tour by coming out on top at the Greensboro Chrysler Classic on Sunday.

South Korea's Choi is one of just four Asian-born players who have captured USPGA event as he posted his first win on American soil since 2002.

Choi birdied the first four holes of the final round to take a lead he never surrendered on his way to a two-stroke victory over Japan's Maruyama.

Playing with 10 new clubs in his bag, Choi carded a closing six-under-par 66 to finish at 22-under-par 266.

"Ten minutes before the first round, this feel came back to me like I had in 2002, when I had two victories," he said. "I was able to carry that throughout the tournament."

He posted his third tour victory and first since 2002, although he did win twice overseas in 2003.

Choi collected \$900,000 to jump to 33rd on the money list, bringing a halt to what had

been a disappointing season.

He changed his swing at the start of the year in an effort to work the ball both ways after previously playing a left-to-right fade almost exclusively.

"Fading the ball's OK when the wind's off the right, but when the wind's off the left, you're going to miss fairways and greens to the right," said Andy Prodder, Choi's caddy. "He's brought in a scenario now where he can get to 18 pins, instead of nine or so."

Choi started the event with five consecutive birdies in the first round, a perfect tonic for a player with wavering confidence.

He never looked back, leading the field in both driving accuracy and putting, a pretty lethal combination.

It was a stark transformation from last week, when he missed the cut at the Texas Open.

"I think he's the strongest Asian player in the world," Maruyama said.

The two are good friends who communicate mainly in Japanese, a language Choi learned during his stint on the Japan Tour.

Maruyama played the first two rounds with Choi. But they did not play together Sunday, which meant Maruyama could only look at the leader boards to see what his rival—and friend—was doing. **AFP**



K.J. Choi celebrates with son David on the 18th green.

# Sox, Astros clinch wild card berths

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—WORLD SERIES champion Boston and the Houston Astros clinched the final two Major League Baseball playoff berths on the last day of the regular season Sunday.

The Red Sox, seeking a repeat after capturing their first title since 1918, were ensured of the American League wild card spot when the Cleveland Indians lost to the Chicago White Sox 3-1.

The Astros defeated the Chicago Cubs 6-4 to secure the National League's wild card playoff berth, denying the Philadelphia Phillies a post-season berth.

Advancing to post-season play with the best second-place division record can be crucial. The past three World Series champions all reached the playoffs as wild card qualifiers.

The Red Sox showdown with the arch-rival Yankees was made a bit of an anticlimax when Cleveland lost, handing Boston the final playoff spot. The Indians one only once in the final eight days, spoiling their late charge.

Spectators here at Fenway Park cheered when the result was announced, although the Red Sox were taking care of business themselves, leading 6-0 in the fifth inning in a game they would have had to win had Cleveland won.

With the best second-place record, the Red Sox will face Central division champion Chicago in the first round of the American League playoffs while the AL East champion Yankees play the AL West champion Los Angeles Angels.

Both AL playoff series begin Tuesday.

The White Sox are trying to win their first playoff series since capturing the 1917 World Series. But the Red Sox went 4-3 this season against the White Sox.

The Angels won six of 10 games against the Yankees, whose \$200 million payroll is baseball's largest.

The Red Sox were looking to play spoilers for the Yankees, who needed a victory or Angels loss on the final day to earn a home-field playoff edge in their series.

Seconds after Philadelphia defeated Washington 9-3 to keep the pressure on the Astros, host Houston induced a game-ending fly out from the Cubs, who had the tying runners in scoring position. **AFP**

# Jenny 7 down as darkness halts Office Depot

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA—South Korea's Han Hee-won is nursing a one-shot lead with the back nine left to play of the suspended \$1.3 million LPGA Office Depot event.

Slow play and darkness pushed the completion of the first round into Saturday, when a fog delay of three and a half hours forced 72 players—half the field—to return Sunday morning to complete their second rounds at the Donald Trump-designed course that overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

When the final round began Sunday afternoon, Han shared the lead at nine-under-par 133 with British Open champion Jeong Jang and France's Karine Icher.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines was four over after her front nine, drifting seven shots off the pace after being in contention with earlier rounds of 66-70.

Han played par golf for eight holes and is one stroke better than Icher (eight holes) and Catriona Matthew (11). The final round will be completed Monday.

At seven-under are Jang (eight holes), Young Jo (12), Soo-Yun Kang (nine) and tour starlet Natalie Gulbis (eight).

The 2001 LPGA Rookie of the Year, Han has been close to breaking through this year with seven top-10 finishes in 21 events.

She has three career wins, with the last coming at the 2004 Safeway Classic.

No players in the top 16 have completed more than 14 holes.

Still lurking on the leaderboard is two-time defending champion Annika Sorenstam, who is at four-under with four holes to play. **AFP**

# Southwoods rules WGAP sixth stage

MANILA SOUTHWOODS AND ALABANG CAME UP with superb rounds to rule their respective divisions in the sixth leg of the WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines) circuit held at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, recently.

Bannered by national pool members Anya Tanpinco and Carmellette Villaroman, Manila Southwoods topped the Class A division while Alabang copped the Class B plum.

Forest Hills reigned supreme in Class C of the event which drew 135 players from Sta. Elena, Philippine Navy, Villamor, Mt. Malarayat, Riviera, Wack Wack and Royal Northwoods.

Meanwhile, the WGAP gave a thumbs-up sign for Royal Northwoods, which hosted the ladies golf circuit for the first time. With its rolling terrain and sleek putting surface, the premier championship course north of Manila provided a different kind of challenge for the women of the tour.



A PARTICIPANT holes out of the sleek putting surface of the Royal Northwoods during the finals of the WGAP circuit sixth leg recently.

With its 5,682 yardage from the red tees and a slope rating of 123, the Graham Marsh-designed course showed a distinct character of its own aside from its location.

"WGAP would like to commend Northwoods for

putting up such kind of a layout and for their hospitality and support to the development of ladies golf," said WGAP tournament director Phine Obmaes, adding that the WGAP will surely return to Northwoods to face the unique challenge of the course again.

# Clijsters snares 4th consecutive crown

LUXEMBOURG—US OPEN CHAMPION Kim Clijsters, the top seed, claimed her fourth consecutive title at the \$585,000 WTA final here on Sunday beating Germany's Anna-Lena Groenfeld in straight sets.

The 6-2, 6-4 win, achieved in one hour 12 minutes play, gave the world number three her fifth title in Luxembourg.

Clijsters outclassed her 23rd-ranked opponent breaking twice to wrap up the first set in 33 minutes.

The Belgian broke in the first game of the second set but 20-year-old

Groenfeld broke back immediately 1-1 and kept up with a break for 4-4. Clijsters rolled off the next two games taking the match on her service.

It is the Belgian player's 29th career title and eighth this year out of 13 events contested.

Clijsters won her first WTA title here in 1999 and went on to win again in 2001, 2002 and 2003. She missed last year's event through injury.

Clijsters added to her 21-match winning streak with her last defeat coming in San Diego by China's Shuai Peng on Aug. 6. **AFP**

# Florendos shine in Shell-CdO active chess

PATRICK ERLE FLORENDO AND Joey Albert Florendo came through with a 1-2 finish in the kiddies division while Paulo James Florendo placed second to Rodolfo Calonia Jr. in junior play at the close of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at the Lim Kekai Mall in Cagayan de Oro Sunday.

Patrick, 13, and Joey, 12, halved the point in the penultimate round then defeated Danilo Engay Jr. and Cy Balbanera, respectively, in the final round to finish with identical 6.5 points after seven rounds of the tournament for 14 years old and under.

But Patrick took the title worth P4,000 with a superior tiebreak score. Sheider Nebato also wound up with 6.5 points after winning his final round match with Abdul Khalid Musor but had to settle for third place. Still, the 13-year-old find from Holy Trinity College in Gen. Santos City

joined the Florendos of Western Mindanao State U in the grand finals of the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Calonia, the 18-year-old pride of Tagoloan Community College in Misamis Oriental, won his last three matches, including a final round victory over Ernie Albano to finish with 6.5 points and nip Paulo James Florendo in the tiebreak to rule the 20-under division and win the top P5,000 purse.

The 16-year-old Florendo, also playing out of WMSU, bounced back from a draw with Ralph Dalauta in the sixth round with a resounding victory over Chito Dimakiling II in the final match to likewise score 6.5 points for second place. Jimson Bitoon of Cebu beat Jeriel Manlimbana in the final round for 6 points as he edged Dimakiling and Dillon Intila in the tiebreak for the third and last berth in the grand finals.

TAMPA, FLORIDA—ROY Jones Jr. walked to his corner, relieved to be standing—his future as a boxer very much up in the air.

The former champion in four weight classes failed in his bid to regain the IBO light heavyweight crown from Antonio Tarver on Saturday, losing a unanimous 12-round decision that raised more questions about whether it's time for him to retire.

Jones said he's not sure. "I'm a true champion," he said. "Being the champion I am, I may come back."

The loss was his second to Tarver in 16 months. He's dropped three

straight fights—two by knockouts—after winning 49 of his first 50 pro bouts.

Tarver won his title with a stunning second-round knockout of Jones in May 2004 and nearly dropped him again in the 11th round Saturday. The champion was unable to finish him off, and that enabled Jones to leave the ring with a sense of accomplishment.

"It was hard to go out like I did after getting knocked out two times," Jones said. "I'm satisfied with my performance."

The fight was Jones' first since he was knocked out by Glen Johnson in September 2004. **AP**



JONES

## SPORTSWATCH

### NCA 7-stag derby on

TOP-FLIGHT PARTICIPANTS WILL FIELD their winningest gamebirds today as the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-cock derby series resumes at the Makati Coliseum. Fifty-one fights are on tap in today's elimination round beginning at 7 p.m. The 4-stag finals is on Thursday. Today's hosts are Ruel Ricafort, JV Magsaysay, Jingco Brothers and Tony Marfori. Crowd favorite McKinley Firebird of hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez and Rep. Jing Paras topped the second NCA derby last Sept. 22 after posting six wins and one loss. Runner-up finishers were Wild Wind Sundance of Rep. Ronnie Puno, VGB Excalibur of Vice Gov. Boyet Joson, Binangonan of Gov. Ito Ynares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and EYB Air Assault of the Ampil brothers. Meanwhile, the NCA 7-stag derby sizzles on Oct. 18 and 20, with Patrick Antonio, Biboy Enriquez, Poi Estrellado and Benjie Lim as hosts. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475

### So heads Airlift cast

WHIZ KID WESLEY SO is the latest and the youngest to sign up for the 2005 ChessLift Asia Active Chess Championship slated to start Oct. 21 at the Pearl Plaza in Baclaran. So joins Grandmaster Eugene Torre and other big names in the three-day chessfest which offers P250,000 in cash prizes. The event is organized by the Active Chess Center for Asia and supported by freight management company, Air Lift Asia Inc. Grandmasters Joey Antonio, Mark Paragua, Bong Villamayor and Nelson Mariano II have been also invited to vie in the nine-round tournament. The champion will receive P100,000, the second placer gets P40,000, third placer P30,000 and the fourth placer P20,000. Prizes will also be given in the kiddies, ladies, juniors, seniors, executive, under-2000, under-1800 and under-16000 categories. Tournament director Ricky Navalta said registration is ongoing. For inquiries, call 893-8501, 892-5462 or 0928-7983984



### AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

- Race 1—1. Gold Fever 2. Manila's Style 3. Majestic Queen 4. Andorra 5. Love Ko To
- Race 2—1. Beattitudes 2. Queen of D Jungle 3. Voice of Destiny 4. Chances Are
- Race 3—1. Thor Simba 2. Truly Impressive 3. Cheska Run 4. Princess Adarna 5. Paminsan Minsan
- Race 4—1. Wind Runner 2. Nothing to Declare/Hakuna Matata 3. I Love This Game/Super Wind
- Race 5—1. Red Storm 2. Gold Money 3. Silver Cho Cho 4. Parrot Moe 5. Sugar Ray
- Race 6—1. Don Ramon 2. Guts 3. Decidido 4. Pride of Mandau
- Race 7—1. Gung Ho 2. Real Black 3. Bumpy Johnson 4. Manila Magic 5. Friendly Venture
- Race 8—1. Tell Henry 2. Day Break 3. Magic Dancer 4. Harrod's Magic 5. Be My Pride 6. Western Dancer

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## MOVIE GUIDE

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| 1 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW 2<br>RT3                                                                                                              | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                           | 1 (DOLBY) PERFECT MAN                                                                                                            |
| 2 (DOLBY) PERFECT MAN<br>GP                                                                                                                   | 2 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                      | 2 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                                                                                  |
| 3 (DOLBY) DUBAI<br>PG13                                                                                                                       | 3 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT                                     | 3 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER 2                                                                                                          |
| 4 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER 2<br>PG13                                                                                                               | 4 (DOLBY) PERFECT MAN                                     | 4 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW 2                                                                                                        |
| <b>PREMIERE</b>                                                                                                                               | 5 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                           |                                                                                                                                  |
| (DOLBY) PERFECT CATCH<br>GP                                                                                                                   | 6 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD                                |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                               | 7 (DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2                               |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                               | 8 (DOLBY) ONE MISSED CALL                                 |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                               | 9 (DOLBY) BLADE OF THE ROSE                               |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                               | 10 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK                                    |                                                                                                                                  |

|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                               |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CINEMA 2000</b><br>Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati<br>Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor.<br>Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City<br>Tel 826.4214 / 816.4216 | <b>Blue Wave</b><br>Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street,<br>Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927 | <b>Cinema 2000 Waltermart</b><br>(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383 |
| 1 THE TRANSPORTER-2                                                                                                                                                     | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                                                               | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                               |
| 2 THE DESCENT                                                                                                                                                           | 2 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT                                                                                         | 2 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM                                  |
| 3 DUBAI                                                                                                                                                                 | 3 (DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2                                                                                   | 3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                          |
| 4 LAND OF THE DEAD                                                                                                                                                      | 4 (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER                                                                                   | 4 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM                                  |

|                                                                          |                                               |                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>st rmall</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150 | <b>Manduluyong</b><br>tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 | <b>Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall</b><br>(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146 |
| 1 RESERVED                                                               | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                               | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                |
| 2 RESERVED                                                               | 2 (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER                   | 2 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                           |
| 3 AGOS                                                                   | 3 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER                    | 3 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD                                         |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DUBAI                                               | 4 (DOLBY) NENA INOSENTE                       | 4 (DOLBY) DUKE OF HAZZARD                                      |

|                                                                                 |                                                    |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>METROPOLIS</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994 | <b>Maragana</b><br>(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274 | <b>Cinema 2000 Waltermart</b><br>(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320 |
| 1 AGOS                                                                          | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                    | 1 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD                                         |
| 2 LAND OF THE DEAD                                                              | 2 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT                              | 2 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                |
| 3 RESERVED                                                                      | 3 (DOLBY) AGOS                                     | 3 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                |
| 4 RESERVED                                                                      |                                                    |                                                                |
| 5 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT                                                           |                                                    |                                                                |
| 6 DUBAI                                                                         |                                                    |                                                                |

|                                                                        |                                                                                                        |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>st rmall</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004 | <b>Center Mall Cinema</b><br>Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue<br>(Baguio City) tel (074) (4449346) | <b>Lianas Cinema</b><br>(Alabang) tel 850.1276 |
| 1 GHOST HOUSE                                                          | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                                                        | 1 (DOLBY) DREAM GIRLS                          |
| 2                                                                      | 2 (DOLBY) THE CAVE                                                                                     | 2 (DOLBY) AGOS                                 |
|                                                                        |                                                                                                        | 3 (DOLBY) IKA PITONG GLORIA                    |
|                                                                        |                                                                                                        | 4 (DOLBY) LITTLE SHADIN                        |

|  |                                                               |                                                         |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Jade Cinema</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03 | <b>Lianas MovieCity</b><br>(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202 |
|  | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                               | 1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                    |
|  | 2 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                          | 2 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK                                   |
|  | 3 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER                                    | 3 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                         |
|  | 4 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK                                         | 4 (DOLBY) AGOS                                          |

|  |                                                       |                                                       |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121 | <b>Fiesta World Mall</b><br>(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790 |
|  | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                       | 1 (DOLBY) SHADIN VS' STONE WARRIOR                    |
|  | 2 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                       | 2 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                       |
|  | 3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER                                  | 3 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN                              |
|  | 4 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER                            | 4 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                       |

|  |                                                       |                                                          |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489 | <b>Berma Cinema</b><br>(Bacaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029 |
|  | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                       | 1 (DOLBY) AGOS                                           |
|  | 2 (DOLBY) THE CAVE                                    | 2 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIM                              |
|  | 3 (DOLBY) RED EYE                                     |                                                          |
|  | 4 (DOLBY)                                             |                                                          |

|  |                                                                    |  |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  | <b>Centre Plaza Cinema</b><br>(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 |  |
|  | 1 (DOLBY) DUBAI                                                    |  |
|  | 2 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK                                              |  |

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OPENS OCTOBER 12

FROM THE SPECIAL EFFECTS TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" COMES THE MOST VISUALLY STUNNING FANTASY EPIC OF THE YEAR!



A24

Knock 'em ...

From page A28

Jade Thai and Basil Resto and Ashley Boutique for making IC's "illusions" come true even just for one night.

"Ilusyunada" took five months to make due to several hitches and many changes. Kudos to the Oro group for not giving up on the project. The hilariously delightful material would have been a terrible thing to waste.

And to my dearest IC, I cannot tell you enough how proud I am of you. All these years, I wondered if I was doing too much or too little for your Ate Bianch and you. That's the tough part about single parenting—I have to gauge things on my own since I don't have a partner to balance the duties with. But seeing how ate and you turned out has erased all my fears of inadequacy. You have doubled my fulfillment as a single mom. Knock them all out with your charms, GIRL!

ES. Hey, mom! Thanks for "hosting" the "remote telecast" of IC's play there in heaven. Your signature laughter will surely be reverberating in IC's heart as he does his thing tonight. It's all for love of you.

(E-mail watering-holeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com.)

OPENS TOMORROW

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A FILM BY DAVID CRONENBERG

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TUESDAY,  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

A23

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|                                                            |                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EUROPEAN GIGOLO</b><br>1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20 | <b>GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA</b>                                |
| <b>THE PERFECT MAN</b><br>1:00 / 3:35 / 6:10 / 8:45        | <b>TRANSPORTER 2</b><br>2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00           |
| <b>DUBAI</b><br>12:10 / 2:25 / 4:40 / 6:55 / 9:10          | <b>LAND OF THE DEAD</b><br>1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 |
| <b>TRANSPORTER 2</b><br>12:35 / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20 / 9:35  | <b>DARK WATER</b><br>12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00      |
| <b>THE DESCENT</b><br>1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20            | <b>PERFECT CATCH</b><br>12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00   |

### ALI MALL CINEMAS

|                                                          |                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <b>DUBAI</b><br>11:05 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05      | 4 <b>ONE MISSED CALL 2</b><br>12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50 |
| 2 <b>TRANSPORTER 2</b><br>1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10      | 5 <b>BLADE OF THE ROSE</b><br>12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50 |
| 3 <b>CONSTANT GARDENER</b><br>12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00 | <b>DOLBY DIGITAL</b>                                               |

### ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 5 **COCA COLA vs GINEBRA** 4:40 pm | Oct 6 **ADMU vs Adu Wom** 11 am UP vs DLSZ Jrs 1 pm  
Wed **STA LUCIA vs ALASKA** 7:25 pm | Thu **FINALS GAME 2: DLSU vs FEU** Srs 3:30 pm

LOG ON TO [www.araneta.com.ph](http://www.araneta.com.ph) FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

## Where have all the stars gone?

WHO WERE THE TOP LOCAL FILM STARS of the '90s? Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy, Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla, Dawn Zulueta, Rosanna Roces, Aga Muhlach, Bong Revilla, Rudy Fernandez, Gretchen Barretto, Nora Aunor, Richard Gomez, Maricel Soriano, Lorna Tolentino, and then some. Where are they now?

Most of them no longer make movies, or do so once in a very blue moon. Some appear on television, which has replaced film as the "happening" medium in the country.

The reason, of course, is that the Filipino film industry has fallen on exceedingly dire times, and only a few new movies are being shown each month.

In their place have come newer and younger stars like Richard Gutierrez, Angel Locsin, Judy Ann Santos, Jericho Rosales, Vhong Navarro, Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, etc., whose few starers have generally been clicking with viewers who are as young as they are.

The big difference, however, between

WHERE/A26

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|   |                                                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>PERFECT MAN</b><br>1:05, 3:35, 6:05<br>8:35, 11:00<br>GP       |
| 2 | <b>DUBAI</b><br>1:05, 3:35, 6:05<br>8:35, 11:00<br>PG-13          |
| 3 | <b>TRANSPORTER 2</b><br>1:20, 3:45, 6:10<br>8:35, 11:00<br>PG-13  |
| 4 | <b>DEUCE BIGALOW 2</b><br>2:10, 4:15, 6:20<br>8:25, 10:30<br>R-13 |

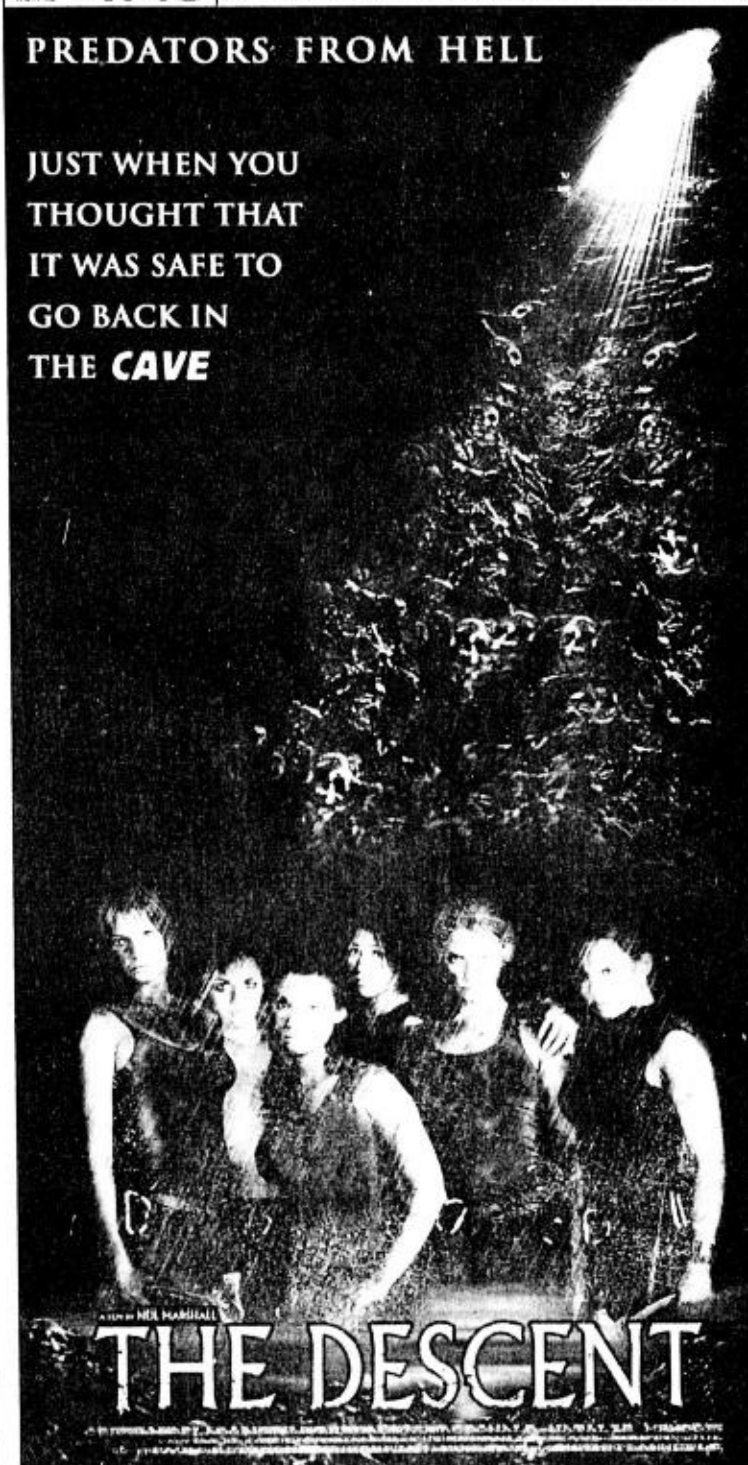
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STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP



## OPENS TOMORROW

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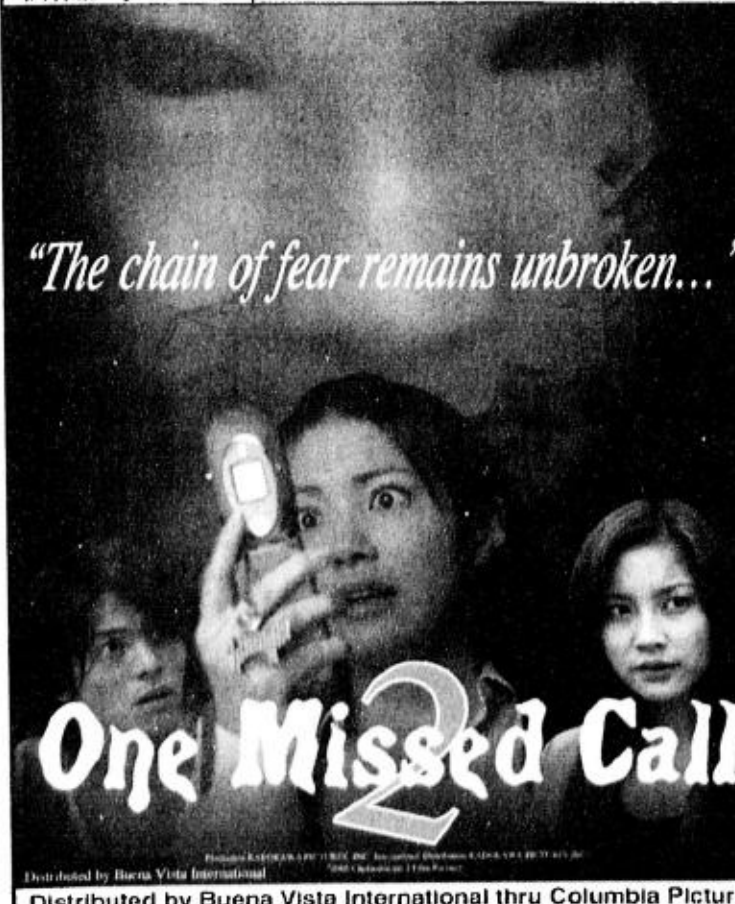
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OPENS TOMORROW

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632-9116

1 THE PERFECT CATCH • THX  
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 ONE MISSED CALL 2  
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 THE TRANSPORTER 2  
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 WILD SIDE  
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 BLADE OF THE ROSE  
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 LOVESTRUCK  
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 LAND OF THE DEAD  
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

9 DARK WATER  
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

5 THE PERFECT MAN  
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 DEUCE BIGALOW  
Sneak Preview

## ERMITA

538-7809 to 12

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2

10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

2 ONE MISSED-CALL 2  
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 BLADE OF THE ROSE 10:20 12:15 2:10  
THE PERFECT CATCH 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

3 THE DESCENT  
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 LAND OF THE DEAD 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10  
DARK WATER 6:10 8:05 10:00

4 DEUCE BIGALOW  
Sneak Preview

7 THE PERFECT MAN  
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 5:55 7:55 9:50

## METRO EAST

682-3193 / 682-3199

1 DEUCE BIGALOW  
Sneak Preview

5 DARK WATER  
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 THE DESCENT  
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 THE PERFECT CATCH  
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 ONE MISSED CALL 2  
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 THE TRANSPORTER 2  
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 LAND OF THE DEAD  
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 LOVESTRUCK  
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

## NOVALICHES

935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE DESCENT  
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER

3 DUKES OF HAZZARD  
4 MUST LOVE DOGS  
5 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview

## CITISQUARE MALABON

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5 BLADE OF THE ROSE

1 DARK WATER  
2 LOVESTRUCK  
3 THE LONGEST YARD  
4 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview  
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2 THE CAVE  
3 CINDERELLA MAN  
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| G1  | GLORIETTA           | 1 | DUBAI                 | 2 | TRANSPORTER 2         | 3                               | DEUCE BIGALOW 2                 | 4                 | ONE MISSED CALL 2 |
|-----|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| G4  | GLORIETTA           | 1 | DEUCE BIGALOW 2       | 2 | DUBAI                 | 3                               | LAND OF THE DEAD                | 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS  |
| GB1 | GREENBELT           | 1 | SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL | 2 | SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL | For more details, call 752-7865 | For more details, call 752-7865 |                   |                   |
| GB3 | GREENBELT           | 1 | DEUCE BIGALOW 2       | 2 | DUBAI                 | 3                               | LAND OF THE DEAD                | 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS  |
| ATC | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 | DEUCE BIGALOW 2       | 2 | TRANSPORTER 2         | 3                               | THE DESCENT                     | 4                 | PERFECT MAN       |
| ACC | AYALA CENTER CEBU   | 1 | DUBAI                 | 2 | LAND OF THE DEAD      | 3                               | THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER       | 4                 | DEUCE BIGALOW 2   |



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| ⑤ | Perfect Man     |

## EVENTS! EVENTS!



Per DTI-NCR Permit no. A2-455, Series of 2005



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The re-animated and the romantic in 'Tim Burton's Corpse Bride'

### REVIEW



BIZARRE love triangle in animation

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit, Contributor

AS ITS TITLE MIGHT SUGGEST, "TIM BURTON'S The Corpse Bride" is a working marriage of eccentricity and brimming artistry that the filmmaker is proud of. He did attach his name to it, after all, and lent to it his legendary fascination with extra-dimensional oddities. His worlds often swirl with magic and macabre mystery that are easy to get involved in, since he has created them for viewers of all ages.

While this animated film is attractively packaged, the mature subjects may be difficult for kids to readily appreciate. Just the same, it is an ideal opportunity to introduce them to those complicated matters—sacrifice, arranged marriages, the importance of vows, and contentment.

Burton, utilizing many nicely designed stop-

motion animation puppets, tells the folk tale-inspired story well. Some of his frequent collaborators were key to realizing this rich and enigmatic dream world.

Good ol' Johnny Depp adds another amiable persona to his long list of varied identities, giving voice and soul to Victor, a shy young man betrothed to similarly reclusive Victoria (Emily Watson).

### Contrasting dimensions

Supernatural entanglements seem to be a given in Burton's films, so it's unsurprising that it gets weird pretty quickly when Victor accidentally marries the re-animated Corpse Bride (Helena Bonham Carter). The viewer is introduced to two contrasting dimensions—the lands of the living and the dead—and it takes time for the story to unfold. But unfold it does,

making everyone sympathetic and real, so that in the end it's sad to see the bizarre love triangle resolved.

The animation, though impressive, is not explored as much as it was in Burton's memorable "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Still, design-wise, the caricature-ish look of the characters are exciting, unlike, say, some of the unimaginative, super-slick creatures of "Shrek." The visuals reveal much about the characters (Victor is thin and wobbly; the town crier is bell-shaped and intrusive, etc.), giving the tale much of its freshness.

"Tim Burton's Corpse Bride" is the 12th collaboration between the director and Danny Elfman, whose compositions are sounding more and more alike, but the playful and oft-foreboding music well suits this stylish and spirited movie.

## ROUNDUP

### Brad, Jen sell house

BEVERLY HILLS—Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, whose highly publicized divorce is expected to be finalized this week, have placed their Beverly Hills estate on the market for \$28 million, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday.

The house, which is being sold as part of the couple's divorce settlement, is empty of furniture, the paper reported. The stars lived there less than two years and have moved on to separate residences in Malibu.

Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 36, bought the 930-sq m-plus Wallace Neff-designed home for about \$13.5 million in 2001. They spent two years refurbishing it.

The couple were married in a star-studded Malibu wedding in July 2000. In January 2005 they announced that they would separate. They filed for divorce on March 25, citing irreconcilable differences.

Meanwhile, rumors swirled that Pitt had taken up with his "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" co-star, Angelina Jolie, 30.

Reuters

### 'Masahista' in Manila

"AFTER lengthy deliberations, 'Masahista (The Masseuse)' was rated R-18 and approved for public exhibition without cuts by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB)," announced filmmaker Brillante Mendoza.

In August, "Masahista" won the Golden Leopard award in the video division of the 58th Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland, tying for the top prize with "Les États Nordiques," directed by Denis Côté of Canada.

The film, initially shot with a digital camera, will finally have a Metro Manila run starting Oct. 19.

"We will be screened in only 10 theaters," said Mendoza.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

### US, Canada movie list

LOS ANGELES—Jodie Foster's "Flightplan" stayed aloft at the box office, as the airplane thriller took in \$15 million to remain the No. 1 movie over a rush of new wide releases. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box-office tracker:

1) "Flightplan," \$15M; 2) "Serenity," \$10.1M; 3) "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride," \$9.8M; 4) "A History of Violence," \$8.2M; 5) "Into the Blue," \$7M; 6) "Just Like Heaven," \$6.1M; 7) "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," \$4.4M; 8) "Roll Bounce," \$4M; 9) "The Greatest Game Ever Played," \$3.75M; 10) "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," \$3.1M.

### Reality dance contest

THE SEARCH is on for the best collegiate and professional dancers. The second year of "Dance Idol"—a dance competition endorsed by the Philippine Sports Commission and National Youth Commission—starts in November. The categories include streetdance, jazz and cheer dance for college participants, and an open level for semi-professional and professional groups. A Mall Tour Showdown is set in SM Manila on Nov. 19 (college cheer dance) and again in SM North Edsa, Nov. 26 (open level); SM San Lazaro, Dec. 3 (college jazz); and SM Megamall, Dec. 17 (college street-dance). Call 4368882 to 83, (0917) 8140875, or e-mail info@street-parkprod.com.

## Ai-Ai gives up on men altogether

By Nini Valera

A I-AI DE LAS ALAS HAS stopped looking for a man as life partner.

"I no longer listen to what society dictates... for instance, that [because I am a woman] I should be with a man," the comedian told INQUIRER Entertainment last week.

Speaking in Filipino, Ai-Ai admitted that she was again in a gay relationship with a television director whom she split up with to concede to convention.

"We got back together last month," she said, referring to Malou Sevilla. "I talked to my children [about this]."

For a while, Ai-Ai's boyfriend was single white male Art Carter, whom she now refers to as "Mr. Carter."

"My children (by singer Miguel Vera) told me they would be happy with whomever I would choose," she confided. "I am so tired of looking for the perfect man."

"I just want my children to be happy... and they want me to be happy, too," Ai-Ai stressed. "Anyway, I am accountable only to

God for my choices."

The comic is currently exploring the talk show genre, having joined ABS-CBN's "ETK" (launched last Saturday), sharing hosting chores with Jon Santos, Toni Gonzaga and Ogie Diaz.

"I'm doing this for love of the network," Ai-Ai claimed, adding that her talent fee was "small [because] the show has a limited budget." It was "not nice," she said, to insist on her regular talent fee. "I am a good soldier; I do what the network [says]. Besides, I feel that I can help in the show. It's been a while since I last did a live show—when I was on 'Magandang Tanghali Bayan.'"

### Heavenly cuteness

Ai-Ai admitted that she was not very comfortable with the gossip format of the show, even as she welcomed the idea that she could thus defend herself, in case she ever got involved in any controversy.

She said she would try to steer clear of intrigues. "I will provide the comedy. When God blessed people, he gave me a dose of cuteness. I would be the cuteness in the show."

Illustrating this "cuteness," Ai-Ai donned a



TIRED of looking

pink wig to match her pink dress and shoes for "ETK's" opening. Two costume changes later, Ai-Ai was at the peak of her cuteness.

Thank heavens for blessings.



MY SON, my friend

## Knock 'em out, girl!

TONIGHT, AND ON OCT. 11, MY GAY SON IC will do something beyond his wildest dreams as the lead star of the musical sex comedy play "Ilusyunada" at Metro Bar on West Avenue, Quezon City. He is more than thrilled to have nine gorgeous leading men—Ced Carrion, Orlando Sol, Derik Cruz, Chester Nolleto, Rhodge Bermudez, Dennis Recto, Joe Armas, Mesh Ancheta and Luka Gatino. He will portray seven karakter na characters! My "mini me" also gets to fulfill one of his longtime fantasies, and that's to don a Darna costume.

Since I grew up in show biz, I have become shock-proof, what with all the controversies I got thrust into! But when I watched IC's rehearsals for the play, I must admit that I squirmed in my seat. I could hardly believe seeing him in naughty positions with the boys. I felt like a voyeur, peeping in the keyhole of my teenage son's locked bedroom. When the project was offered to IC, I was a bit apprehensive, wondering if he would be comfy doing the sexy parts. But when I saw his enthusiasm, I knew in my heart that he was ready for his foray into stage acting. IC is spreading his wings. Over and beyond the delicate theme of the play, it's his growth as an artist that matters.

### Stage mom?

MANY people ask if I'm a stage mother. I laugh and tell them that I'm not even a typical mother to begin with. IC and I are more like girlfriends who share clothes, makeup, bags and boy theories. If I were a stage ma, IC wouldn't have had the guts to

## DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



"come out" and declare on national TV that he's gay. From day one, I never got in the way of IC's wishes. For me, stage mothering is smothering. That's not in my vocabulary at all.

For sure I'll be misty-eyed as I watch IC tonight. Lyrics of "Sunrise, Sunset" ("Is this the little boy I carried?") will alternate with the words of "This Girl (este, Boy) has Turned Into a Woman" in my head. I promise not to sing aloud, though, or join the cast onstage.

Allow me to profusely thank Jimson Garcia (executive producer), Robert Espinosa (associate producer), Direk Soxy Topacio, Ret Duterte (choreographer), Galo Ador Jr. (writer), Dunhill, Elmo, Dominique, Anton and the rest of Oro Entertainment. Thank you for your vote of confidence, which is priceless. You have redefined gay pride for IC and for other young boys like him yearning to be respected even if they can't be accepted by some judgmental people.

Special thanks to the sponsors Caterpillar, Iti, Sisters, U2M, Digitrax, F Salon, Miro Japanese Fusion Restaurant, Gold's Gym, Jay Javier Fotopabrik (Super tnx, Jay for the superb shots!), Es-sensuals Toni and Guy Victor Blan, Café Florida.

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## BIR exceeds revenue target by P600M

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT exceeded its revenue targets for the month of September, indicating that the fiscal sector continued to perform better than expected for the first nine months of the year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves announced yesterday that preliminary figures showed that the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for 60 percent of the government's revenues, had collected P39.1 billion for the month of September, or P600 million higher than its target of P38.5 billion.

## But Customs take still short by P1B

The Bureau of Treasury has also generated P3.8 billion for the month compared with its target of only P2.6 billion, Teves added. The revenue collection of the Treasury includes dividends remitted by state-owned companies and savings from interest payments.

The Bureau of Customs, however, was still short of its collection goal for the month by P1 billion. Teves said that of the P13.6-billion target for September, Customs has so far collected only P12.6 billion. Customs collections are composed largely of import duties.

On a net basis, Teves said, the

government as of yesterday exceeded its revenue target by P800 million. He said the DOF was awaiting the government's expenditure performance from the Department of Budget and Management to get a picture of its total fiscal performance for the month and the whole of third quarter.

The government's budget position, whether a surplus or deficit, would be announced some time in the second or third week of the month.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said it was still too early to tell whether the budget for the

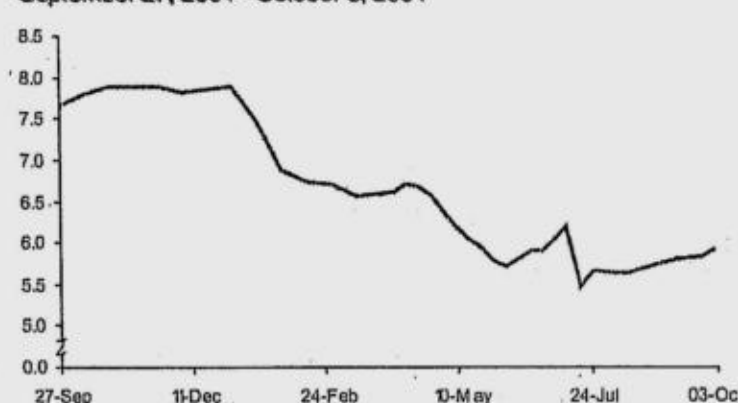
month would be in a surplus or a deficit pending the submission of preliminary data by the budget department.

But the DOF believed the government would still be way ahead of its fiscal program in September. The DOF earlier reported that for the month of August, the government's recorded a budget surplus of P1.75 billion. This trimmed the budget deficit figure for the first eight months of the year to P80.82 billion, or way below the P120.92-billion ceiling for the period.

Teves said the government's revenue performance would further be boosted should the VAT Reform Law be implemented as expected on or before Oct. 15. He said the VAT could still generate an additional P5 billion for the government for 2005 should it be implemented starting the middle of this month.

## 91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

September 27, 2004 - October 3, 2004



## Rates of 6-month, 1-year T-bills decline

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BENCHMARK 91-DAY Treasury bill rate inched up slightly by 8 basis points to 5.898 percent as demand for government securities shifted to longer-dated instruments.

"Clearly, the market's appetite was for the six-month and one-year bills," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a press briefing after yesterday's auctions.

The 182-day bill fetched a lower rate of 8.026 percent, or 7.7 basis points lower than the previous week's, while the rate for the

364-day bill stood 0.7 basis point lower at 9.042 percent. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

All maturities were oversubscribed, as total tenders reached P13.1 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P4.5 billion. Bids for the bellwether 91-day bill amounted P1.74 billion as against the offering of only P1 billion, while bids for the six-month debt paper stood at P6.57 billion against the P1.5 billion on offer. Tenders for the one-year government securities

RATES/B3

## CLOSURE SEEN SANS GOV'T INCENTIVES

## Shell weighs options on refinery operations

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. will finally decide by next year whether to expand its refinery here or just shut it down completely.

Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi said the oil firm was seriously studying several different options right now,

taking into consideration the competitive environment in the region's downstream oil sector and additional concessions that it was waiting from the government.

Looking at the current market landscape and how refineries in Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Korea were expanding and upgrading their facilities, he said Shell would soon have to tread

the same path if it were to remain competitive in the region.

Also, by 2009, more stringent emission requirements under the Euro 2 standards would take effect, meaning Shell would either have to keep up by upgrading its existing refinery facilities or just close the refinery and become a pure finished product importer, he said.

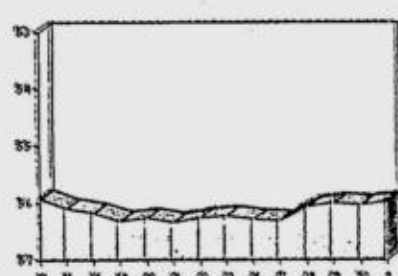
"We have to prepare for the fu-

ture. There's no point in staying if we don't meet the requirements of the future. We will not be competitive with the regional refineries (with our existing facilities). We're looking to the government right now (as regards our final decision)," he said.

Shell, he said, would be waiting for the government's decision on

SHELL/B3

## INDICATORS CURRENCIES



### PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.955 = \$

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 3, 2005

Y 113.28 = \$

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2005

GOLD: \$472.30-472.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 30, 2005

| SEPTEMBER      | OCTOBER   | per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 30, 2005 |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
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| Japan          | Yen       | 0.007328                            |
| United Kingdom | Pound     | 1.466905                            |
| Hong Kong      | Dollar    | 0.107181                            |
| Switzerland    | Franc     | 0.642506                            |
| Canada         | Dollar    | 0.715358                            |
| Singapore      | Dollar    | 0.491594                            |
| Australia      | Dollar    | 0.633066                            |
| Bahrain        | Dinar*    | 2.205713                            |
| Saudi Arabia   | Rial      | 2.221730                            |
| Brunei         | Dollar    | 0.490146                            |
| Indonesia      | Rupiah    | 0.000081                            |
| Thailand       | Baht      | 0.020271                            |
| UAE            | Dirham    | 0.226464                            |
| Euro           | Euro      | 1.000000                            |
| Argentina      | Peso      | 0.285995                            |
| Brazil         | Real      | 0.373470                            |
| Denmark        | Kroner    | 0.133999                            |
| India          | Rupee     | 0.018928                            |
| Malaysia       | Ringgit   | 0.220654                            |
| Mexico         | New Peso  | 0.077291                            |
| New Zealand    | Dollar    | 0.576093                            |
| Norway         | Kroner    | 0.127042                            |
| Pakistan       | Rupee     | 0.013930                            |
| South Africa   | Rand      | 0.131157                            |
| Korea          | Won       | 0.000797                            |
| Sweden         | Kroner    | 0.107365                            |
| Syria          | Pound     | 0.016019                            |
| Taiwan         | Nt Dollar | 0.025087                            |
| Venezuela      | Bolivar   | 0.000387                            |

## STOCK MARKET

### Stocks inch up in slow trading

SHARE PRICES closed 0.19 percent higher yesterday, supported by modest bargain-hunting in the telecoms sector after sustained losses last week, dealers said.

However, the low volumes were an indication that few investors were interested in taking positions in the current market environment, preferring to wait on the sidelines given political and security concerns, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 3.75 points to 1,945.82 after trading between 1,940.93 and 1,946.02. Volume was a light 323.33 million shares worth P513.5 million.

Gainers tied losers at 23 each, with 49 stocks unchanged.

The broader all-shares index declined 0.19 points to 1,182.30.

Dealers warned that some players may have been unnerved by the latest bombings in Bali which are suspected to have been masterminded by the radical Islamic group, the Jemaah Islamiyah.

"The bombings in Bali are close to home. Those things are a matter of concern because it's in the region," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most active stock, rising P5 to P1,690, after gains in its New York-listed shares Friday.

Rival Globe Telecom ended up P10 at P755.

Manila Water Co. was down 10 centavos at P6.20 while parent Ayala Corp. gained P5 to P292.50. Ayala Land Inc. was steady at P8 and Bank of the Philippine Islands remained unchanged at P52.

San Miguel Corp. "A" shares, limited to local investors, were down 50 centavos at P65 while the "B" shares, available to foreign and local investors, were unchanged at P92.50.

AFP

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# 5 foreign banks tapped for BSP's \$500-M loan

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has tapped five big foreign banks to arrange a \$500-million loan syndicate which will be used for the refinancing and general funding requirements of the BSP.

Standard Chartered Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., Calyon, HSH Nordbank AG Singapore, BSH and ING Bank NV have already launched the \$500-million term loan facility, which the BSP has targeted for financial closing in the first week of November.

The banks announced that the loan would have two tranches, the first one with a maturity of three years, and the other with five years.

The first tranche was priced at 160 basis points over the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate, and the second tranche at 270 basis points over LIBOR.

For the first tranche, underwriting fee would be equivalent to 12 basis points and management fee at 45 basis points. For the second tranche, the fees would be 45 basis points and 55 basis points, respectively.

The lead arrangers said the facility had already attracted "strong" response from the bank market.

The term loan is convertible to a fixed rate note (FRN) at the option of the lenders while an optional prepayment is allowed in full or in part without penalty on any interest

payment date. The FRN does not allow early redemption by the issuer.

While the BSP is facing \$800 million in commercial requirements due this November, it would raise only \$500 million from the loan market because the rest would be covered by the existing foreign exchange buildup.

Even with the remaining maturities for the year, the BSP still expects to end the year with a comfortable level of reserves at \$17-\$17.5 billion.

Despite sufficient appetite for Philippine issues at the global market, the BSP stays out of the bond market to avoid crowding out the national government which has its own requirements.

The BSP last resorted to external borrowings in March last year when it accepted a \$500-million loan offered by a syndicate of seven foreign banks. Its decision to push through with this fund-raising had aided the local currency, which at the time had fallen to a record low of 56.45 to the dollar due to market concerns on the country's dwindling gross international reserves.

The \$800-million maturing liabilities of the BSP in November represented principal and interest payments to foreign commercial creditors. Its total debt including obligations to bilateral and multilateral institutions like the Monetary Fund, add up to \$1 billion.

## Money acts

JUST IN CASE THIS COUNTRY is suffering from short-term memory loss, let me go back to that great big fuss in 1992—or about 13 years ago.

At that time, the rah-rah-rah administration of Kuya Eddie (aka former President Fidel V. Ramos) decided that this country needed a new airport.

Or at least, according to dear Kuya Eddie, we needed an airport terminal for international flights that was more presentable than the pathetic rut we had back then.

Today, some 13 years later, thanks to the heap of controversies building around the project—covering all of three administrations and featuring a long list of fishy acts of money maniacs in the DOTC—we still do not have the new terminal.

It seems only yesterday but—again—that was actually 13 long years ago. Why do we still not have that, er, "world class" airport terminal?

In dog years, I mean, come on, the airport terminal project should be way past its senile age by now.

And in human years, it would be older than Jovy Salonga and JPE-combined.

\*\*\*

TO think that our dearly beloved Department of Tourism is moving heaven and earth to promote Philippine tourism in Japan right now.

Of course the department also moved a good chunk of its already limited budget.

And so, this cute besieged administration of Gloriaaetta can promote tourism all it wants until its budget deficit extends to another universe.

But the biggest problem in our tourism sector remains the lack of infrastructure. You know, things like a respectable neat airport terminal.

Enter businessman Emilio Yap (aka the "Don"), owner of the daily Manila Bulletin, who also "bought" the Manila Hotel, supposedly, from the pension fund GSIS.

Reportedly, through the Manila Hotel, the "Don" already bought 50 percent of Piatco, the proponent of the BOT project for the airport terminal, known as Naia 3.

It is the same dream project that the administration of Kuya Eddie decided we should pursue only 13 years ago, the one that up to now remains just a dream.

With his buying into Piatco, according to some boys of the "Don," Naia 3 would finally open for the benefit of the public.

In short, the "Don" is the hero of the day! Good job, boys! Now, heel!

\*\*\*

ME, I have followed this Naia 3 project from Day 1, ever since former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson brought up the idea to his province-mate Kuya Eddie.

In 1992, or 13 years ago, Singson suggested to Kuya Eddie to tap the country's taipans (aka the filthy rich Chinese-Filipinos) to build the, er, "world class" terminal.

Since then, the Naia 3 project mysteriously got away from the taipans, going to a little known group headed by a certain Pair Cargo, owned by a certain Cheng Yong.

And the rest, as they say, was history. It was a history of graft and corruption, punctured by major changes in the contract, featuring three administrations.

Don't blame me, please, if I got a little turned on, journalistically speaking, when the "Don" dropped on us recently his Piatco acquisition bomb.

It seems, based on the reports, that the "Don" bought the 20 percent interest of SB Airport ("SB" meaning "Security Bank") and the Japanese firm Sojitz.

But the actual bombshell from the "Don" was his supposed acquisition of the 30 percent holdings in Piatco of the German airport operator Fraport.

It was a big surprise, because nobody in his right mind would want to touch either Pi-

## BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

atco or Fraport, embroiled as they were in gazillion cases over Naia 3.

Yet the "Don" acquired 50 percent of the company, reportedly, for a whopping \$230 million. It was not peanuts even for the "Don."

For, at today's peso exchange rate, that is about P13 billion. So where did he get the money? Certainly not from Manila Hotel! And not from the GSIS again, I hope!

REALLY, it's impossible for Manila Hotel to have that kind of money. In fact, the last time I checked, the "Don" still owed GSIS a lot of money, involving Manila Hotel itself.

That's why I scoured all the reports, looking for little hints on the financing source of the "Don" for such a major, big time, deal-of-a-lifetime acquisition as an unfinished airport terminal, itself the subject of endless controversy.

I waited and waited for some proof showing that the "Don" really raised the little sum of P13 billion to pay for those 50 percent interest in Piatco.

When none came, I knew that it must be another one of those schemes of his, such as his supposed "acquisition" of the Manila Hotel from the GSIS.

As you know, the Government Service Insurance System, hoping to raise money for its impoverished members, auctioned off the Manila Hotel years ago.

The Supreme Court declared the "Don" winner in the bidding. And where, pray tell, did the "Don" get the money to pay for Manila Hotel?

Well, according to GSIS insiders, the "Don" actually did not pay for the hotel. Not fully, at least! Technically, he should be in default on the Manila Hotel payment by now.

Up to now, he still has to pay GSIS for the balance of P1 billion in the original acquisition price.

By some unknown force of the universe, it does not even occur to the GSIS that it should perhaps try to collect on the "Don."

Why is that? Well, you know very well that, as a major owner of a newspaper, the "Don" can wield tremendous political influence.

It should be the same strategy that he could use in the supposed Piatco "acquisition." You know—ghost financing.

How then can we expect the hero of the day, the one and only "Don," to open Naia 3? Let me see, uh, well, maybe, by using the GSIS again?

NOBODY but nobody knows just exactly how much Fraport (and, to an unremarkable extent, the locals in Piatco) spent on the Naia 3 project.

Fraport said the amount was about \$400 million, which it claimed during the hearings of the Senate blue ribbon committee.

But then again, the cost can also reach as high as \$650 million, which is the amount Fraport claimed in its cases against the Philippine government.

Just exactly how much the project will cost us, the public, nobody really knows. To think that the terminal still needs about \$100 million before it becomes operational.

Does Manila Hotel have that kind of money, or the capability to raise that kind of money?

And so, if by some guidance from above, this broke but still cute administration agrees to give Piatco compensation for the expropriated terminal project, somebody perhaps ought to earn a little commission. Somebody from above!

I don't have to tell you who pays for all of it, right? None other than Jovy Salonga, JPE, and all of us!

## Filipino fruit traders hope to make a killing in China

By Christine A. Gaylican

AS TARIFF BARRIERS ACROSS MAINLAND China fall to a range of 0 and 5 percent next year, Filipino exporters of fresh coconut and mangos are hoping to double the current volume of 25,000 metric tons shipped to that country annually.

This is one of the benefits of the country's inclusion in China's Early Harvest Program, which takes effect in January 2006.

"This would provide a big boost to our export of fresh mangoes to mainland China," said Roberto C. Amores, Mango Product Exporters Confederation Inc. president. "We could further increase our export, which now ranges from 10,000 to 15,000 metric tons yearly."

Through the Early Harvest Program, China grants a concession to Asean members by reducing tariffs on a host of agricultural and

manufactured goods.

The agreement is expected to even up the country's trade imbalance with China as the latter exports more than \$500 million worth of goods to the Philippines.

Other Philippine agricultural products that will be given tariff preferential in China are coconut, pineapples and bananas.

Under the program, vegetable products, pork and chicken, rice and corn from China will not be allowed into the country to protect critical sectors in the Philippines.

The country's access to the Early Harvest Program of China came in late in the day.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Pangiban said that since China started the early harvest program in March 2003, Philippine agriculture products began losing market share to other Asean countries.

"Hopefully, we could catch up as the free trade agreement gets implemented in January," Pangiban said.

## Coco exports from Jan-Aug up by 12.3%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

COCONUT EXPORTS WENT UP 12.3 PERCENT to about 1.3 million metric tons in the first eight months, with increased shipments of coconut oil driving the growth, according to the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines.

Preliminary figures showed marked improvement from the 1.15 million MT of coconut products exported from January to August of 2004, the trade group reported.

This year, coconut oil accounted for 680,324 MT of exports, copra meal 262,455 MT, desiccated coconut 81,862 MT, and oleochemicals from copra 83,061 MT.

UCAP said that in August, coconut exports grew by 24.5 percent to 195,217 MT from 158,778 MT in the same month last year.

The group said the increase was largely credited to coconut oil, with outbound shipments increasing by 28.6 percent to 101,510 MT from 78,922 MT.

Other coconut-based products also posted increased shipments, with copra meal going up by 103 percent to 32,890 MT, and oleochemicals by 28.4 percent to 18,858 MT.

However, cargos of desiccated coconut fell in volume by 9.4 percent to 9,852 MT.

Data from the National Statistics Coordination Board showed that total coconut production in the first half of 2005 reached 6.93 million MT or 3 percent higher than the 6.68 million MT of output in the same period last year.

In a related matter, the government has yet to persuade Taiwan to lift its total ban on Philippine coconut products. Officials are urging the Taiwanese to certify exports on a per shipment basis.

Antonio I. Basilio, resident representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, said the country could earn up to \$3 million yearly if the export of coconut products to Taiwan would resume.

The export of fresh coconuts to Taiwan, which was being carried through a quota system, was stopped in 1999 on concerns about the "cadang-cadang," a disease affecting palm trees.

Manila has assured the Taiwanese that the disease is not harmful to humans and animals. But Taipei considered it a host pest that must be subjected to sanitary requirements.

## National Maritime opens bid to buy Lorenzo Shipping

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE NATIONAL MARINE CORP (NMC) OF shipping magnate Doris Magsaysay-Ho yesterday offered to buy 51.3 percent of publicly-listed Lorenzo Shipping Corp. (LSC) for P185.2 million.

The offer period will end on October 28.

In its tender offer report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, NMC has offered to buy 154.35 million common LSC shares at P1.20 a share.

LSC yesterday closed at P1.18 a share. NMC earlier bought 28.7 percent or 86.25 million shares of LSC.

NMC is a local shipping company engaged in inter-island and regional trade.

Along with its affiliates, NMC is engaged in container shipping, petroleum tankering and barging, LPG water transport, ship agency, logistics and bunkering.

Under SEC regulations, a company is required to make an offer to buy minority shareholders of a publicly-owned company if it has purchased more than 35 percent of that company.

NMC is buying LSC to strengthen its position in the domestic shipping industry through a strategic partnership. At present and pending the completion of its tender offer, NMC said it will maintain the status quo of LSC and has no specific plans or proposals to merge with, reorganize or liquidate LSC.

Founded in 1972, LSC provides inter-island containerized cargo shipping services in the country.

LSC operates a fleet of eight cargo vessels that operate within a network of seven branches and three agencies.

The company now has plans to enter new service routes, and will soon open marketing offices elsewhere and expand its network.

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**Philippine Stock Exchange**

In the second quarter, Globe posted a net income of P1.19 billion, its lowest quarterly profit since the last quarter of 2001. Revenue Globe admitted, failed to keep pace with increased cost and expenses.

Sources told the INQUIRER that ALI's exchangeable bonds targets the retail market and aims to mobilize savings for affordable

As far as the rumor that God-fearing Cory Aquino and Senator Drilon were planning to kidnap GMA, I find the whole idea preposterous. What I fear might happen is a clampdown on the freedom of the press. We are moving into an unstable scenario and I urge everybody to buy a book called 1984, written about 50 years ago by George Orwell. He was a rabid anti-Communist, after being bitten by a Russian dog, but his book is frightening and thought-provoking and should be compulsory reading. The Philippines, with all its faults, is a democracy and we want it to stay that way. [mrbearbull@hotmail.com](mailto:mrbearbull@hotmail.com)

## DISCLOSURES

The Mall of Asia, which sits on a 60-hectare property overlooking Manila Bay, is designed to become not just the Philippines' theater



## People, Events &amp; Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

## G-Cash, GlobeQUEST Store Express boost retail industry

THE RETAIL INDUSTRY HAS GREATLY PROFITED from advancements in technology, both in terms of service efficiency and customer empowerment. The shopping experience, in particular, has been transformed by the m-commerce pioneered by Globe G-Cash, the country's first wireless, cashless and cardless integrated mobile payment service. With more than 1 million registered users and nearly 4,000 partners and outlets locally and worldwide, G-Cash facilitates access to such common daily transactions as reloading of prepaid phone credits, remittance services, phone-to-phone mobile currency transfer, and purchases and payments.

To address the growing need for retail establishments' integration of m-commerce services, G-Cash and GlobeQUEST Store Express have collaborated with Ripple E-Business International to create G-POS, a module that seamlessly integrates a store's existing point-

of-sale (POS) system with the G-Cash open platform. The module is made available through GlobeQUEST Store Express, a solution specifically designed to address the connectivity and IT requirements of any retail establishment.

The solution was recently showcased at the Stores Asia Expo 2005 Retail Suppliers Exhibition, held concurrently with the 14th National Retailers Conference at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, an annual convention organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA). To provide attendees with the total m-commerce shopping experience, G-Cash and GlobeQUEST set up the fully operational G-Store and G-Cafe, where shoppers could purchase premium items and beverages using their mobile wallet. Subscribers could also exchange their cash for G-Cash via the prototype G-Cash Automated Machine, also on display at the exhibit.

On hand to demonstrate the G-POS experience to the PRA's chair Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, officers, and other guests of honor were Aries C. Sayson, corporate sales head and Jesus C. Romero, vice-president and corporate business group head of Innove Communications's corporate brand, GlobeQUEST and Joey Mendoza, president of G-Xchange Inc. Both wholly owned subsidiaries of Globe Telecom, Innove oversees the fixed line, voice, data and internet business while G-Xchange Inc. is tasked to oversee the development of G-Cash and expand the m-commerce market.

G-POS enables all G-Cash merchant partners to provide their extended market of nearly 14 million Globe and TM subscribers with cash-in and cash-out, purchases, utilities payments and reloading functionalities. To find out more about how to empower your mobile market with this brand-new retailing system, call the G-Cash hotline at (02)739-2882.



## G-CASH, SM EXPAND MOBILE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

G-Cash has recently expanded its partnership with SM Shoemart Inc from strictly remittance transactions to include purchases and payments, making G-Cash the first m-commerce service to integrate with the retail giant's existing point-of-sale (POS) system. This allows the nearly 14 million combined Globe Handyphone and TM subscriber base to use their G-Cash mobile wallet to make full or partial payments for SM Department Store purchases. The service is currently available at SM Megamall, and will be rolled

out soon in other SM branches nationwide. With this collaboration with SM, G-Cash has once again transformed the Filipino shopping experience. Establishments interested in finding out how to provide G-Cash functionalities for their existing clientele may call the G-Cash hotline at (02)739-2882. Formalizing the partnership between G-Cash and SM are (from left) G-Xchange Inc president Joey Mendoza, SM Shoemart SVP-comptrollership Ricky Lim, and Globe head of m-commerce marketing Patricia Tan.



## CALENERGY HITS 2M SAFE MAN-HOURS TARGET

Employees of CalEnergy's Leyte geothermal facilities recently achieved a safety record after working more than 2 million man hours without a lost-time accident. For its achievement, CalEnergy received plaques of citation from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Working Conditions, the Department of Energy, the World Safety Organization, and Safety Orga-

nization of the Philippines' Eros Zuiliga. Photo shows (from left) CalEnergy HR officer Janet Umasan, MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company safety audit and compliance director Jane Burt, CalEnergy president Joseph L. Sullivan, vice president and general counsel Linda Castillo, risk and safety manager Ruel Manuel and purchasing officer Ariel Baure.



## PAMI LAUNCHES 'DRAYBER KO 'TO'

The Philippine Accident Managers Inc (Pami) recently launched a series of defensive driving seminars for all public utility drivers and operators in the country. Dubbed 'Drayber Ko 'To,' the undertaking aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of the jeepney, taxi, FX, bus and other PUV drivers and keep them in the right frame of mind and attitude while driving. 'Drayber Ko 'To' is an inter-

active four-hour seminar managed by competent lecturers and resource persons. The drivers are given examinations after the seminar to ascertain their defensive driving skills and attitudes. The series of seminars is conducted free of charge and all drivers or transport associations may get in touch with any of the Pami offices all over the country for their respective schedules.



## LAMOIAN TIES UP WITH DEP-ED

Filipino-owned Lamoian Corp recently forged a breakthrough partnership with the Department of Education (DepED) that aims to enhance the health and well-being of the Filipino child through a beneficial program on oral care. The three year project is dubbed as 'Oral Care Package for Bright Child' specifically designed by the two parties in support

of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 'Bright Child Campaign' indicated in Executive Order No. 286. Photo shows Ding Salvador, managing consultant, Lamoian Corp (front row, second from left) shaking hands with DepED Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge Ramon Bacani during the MOA signing. Joining them are Lamoian and DepED officials.



## ALDO'S CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY

Aldo's Bar and Restaurant, recently celebrated its 3rd anniversary with a formal blessing officiated by Fr. John Alabastro, Parish Priest from Logano, Switzerland. In photo (from left): Joyce Agbulos, Chris Paguyo, Tere Rodriguez, Carlos Anca, Bing Guevara, Ruby Calinawan, Veyon

Calinawan, Fr. John Alabastro, Lennard Calinawan, Johann Calinawan, Ronnie Calinawan and Greg Lagumen. You may call 426-6996 and 926-8846 for jamming schedules and dining reservation. Aldo's is located at 26 Scout Torillo cor. Scout Fernandez, Tutong Area, Quezon City

## Now is the best time to be with Globe

WHETHER IT'S SWEET GREETINGS to a family member overseas or an urgent call to a business colleague, Globe Handyphone certainly keeps you connected. Now, Globe offers more ways to get big savings on your calls and text messages with its new exciting promos. It's truly the best time to be with Globe.

For Globe subscribers who want to stay in touch with their loved ones abroad, Globe presents the newest and the best reason to celebrate - \*Budget IDD. For only US\$0.20 per minute now, starting from the 1st minute, you can make IDD calls to the United States, Canada, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, and Australia until Oct. 27. Just dial 12800 (country code) (area code) (phone number) to avail of this discounted rate. For IDD calls to countries other than these, Globe still offers its affordable flat rate of \$0.40 per minute. Budget IDD is available to Globe's post-paid and pre-paid subscribers as well as TM subscribers.

Other Globe Prepaid Celebrate promo offerings have been extended. Continue enjoying Globe-to-Globe unlimited text for only P15 for 24 hours, P25 for two days, or P50 for 5 days. Simply send TXTNONSTOP15 (for one day of unlimited texting), TXTNONSTOP25

(for 2 days of unlimited texting), or TXTNONSTOP50 (for 5 days of unlimited texting) to 2870. You can also make Globe-to-Globe calls at a flat rate of P10 for every three minutes. No registration is needed - just dial 235 + the 10-digit Globe number you're calling. When the call ends, you can simply redial to get another 3 minutes of talk time at the same discounted rate. These promos will also run until Oct. 27.

The TXTNONSTOP and P10-per-3-minute call promos are open to all Globe prepaid subscribers, including those with Globe Gizmo, Kapamilya, and Globe Kababayan and Traveler's SIMs. Globe SIM cards are now available at very affordable prices, at only P99 for the Globe Prepaid X-treme Memory, Globe Gizmo, and Kapamilya SIM packs and P150 for the powerful 128XL expanded-memory SIM.

Aside from Globe's reliable services and nationwide network coverage, there's another good reason to get these Globe SIMs now: if you're a new Globe Prepaid subscriber, you can get unlimited text for 5 days absolutely free, just by reloading P25.

With all these great values and relevant offerings, staying connected with Globe has never been better. Get on Globe now and save more on your IDD, local calls and texts.

## RCSI'S 1ST FRANCHISING EXHIBIT

Robinsons Convenience Stores Inc (RCSI) recently staged the first franchising exhibit at the Galleria Trade Hall in Robinsons Galleria. Shown are (from left): RCSI business unit head Bobby Go leading the ribbon cutting ceremony together with company general manager Willy Camarillo, vice president



Kinuhiko Yoshihara, Robinsons Supermarket GM Jody Gadia and Robinsons retail group BU head Robina Gokongwei-Pe.



## FFCCI, FINEX: PARTNERS IN PHILIPPINE GROWTH

A partnership forged through time re-seen again as the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc agrees to be a major co-presenter and partners up with Finex for the 2005 World Congress of Financial Executives to be held this year in Makati Shangri-La. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to create a positive tone by showcasing thriving business environment. This year's theme is: 'Global Markets: Thriv-

ing in Shifting Financial Landscapes.' Seen in photo are (from left) Edgardo L. Limon, overall chair, World Congress committee; Victor Y. Lim Jr., Finex past president; Alfonso A. Uy, vice president, FFCCI; Melito S. Salazar Jr., Finex president and co-chair; Francis Chua, president, FFCCI; Grace P. Tiongco, co-chair, World Congress ways and means committee, and Franklin F. Ysaac, chair, World Congress ways and means committee.

## Panasonic awards recipients of 2006 Scholarship Program

THE PANASONIC GROUP OF Companies in the Philippines will hold the formal awarding ceremonies of the 2006 Panasonic Scholarship grants for Master's Course in Japan to three young Filipino professionals and outstanding graduates of top Philippine universities.

To be presented together with Panasonic Scholarship Inc (Japan) president Tsutomu Shimada and Panasonic Scholarship Office of the Philippines chair Seichi Fukami, the Certificate of Scholarship will be awarded to the nominated students. The scholars, who will stay in Japan for three years, are expected to help promote good relations among Asian countries and contribute to the development of the country.

Commission on Higher Education Chair Carlito S. Puno will be the guest speaker of the event, while Panasonic Mobile Communications Corporation of the Philippines president Reynaldo Lico will provide the welcome remarks.

The recipients of the 2006 Panasonic Scholarship grants will have the chance to do research and complete master's degrees in natural sciences and engineering in Japanese universities. They are: Olival Paghangaan Borda from Sta. Cruz Laguna; Dominic Clark Anolin Galam from Isabela; and Karen Gutierrez Rosal from Tarlac City.

Borda is a graduate of the University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He is currently a project

engineer at Britany Corp. His chosen field of study is investigative study on the use of Micropiles in Seismic Retrofitting.

Galam, on the other hand, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology, major in Zoology from the Central Luzon University in Nueva Ecija. He is currently working as a researcher in the Philippine Rice Institute. While in Japan, he intends to enroll in a master's program focusing on Molecular Mapping and Cloning Activities on Genes with agronomic importance.

Meanwhile, Rosal graduated from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños Laguna with a bachelor's degree in Biology, major in Genetics. At present, she works as a faculty member in Central Luzon State University-Department of Biological Science. Upon arrival in Japan, she intends to conduct further study on Molecular Identification and Phylogenetic Analysis of Native Fishes.

The 2006 batch will undertake language studies and leave for Japan in April 2006.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd (MEI) of Japan established the Panasonic Scholarship program in 1998 to commemorate its 80th founding anniversary. It is based on the business philosophy of the late MEI founder Konosuke Matsushita who said that the companies' factories and centers all over the world must gain the right to exist, grow and prosper only if they continue to contribute towards the betterment of society in which they do business.

## Product FILES

## A delicious and satisfying snack

WITH THE PINOY'S HEARTY Appetite and enthusiastic eating habits in mind, Jack 'n Jill Magic Flakes has veered away from the traditional three-cracker packs to give Pinoys more value for their money. With an extra piece for the price of three, Magic Flakes' crackers are a delicious



and satisfying snack, a versatile companion for mealtimes, a convenient baon for school, work or outings, and a comforting partner when you're feeling under the weather. With four crackers in every pack, Magic Flakes is already a filling fare on its own.

## 'A Mindanao Story'

OVER THREE DECADES, MINDANAO CHANGED the course of national history, shaped Philippine foreign policy, and starkly focused international attention on tragic events, many of which are still vivid in the minds of those who witnessed or lived through them. Now, through the eyes of Major Gen. Delin Castro (Ret.) whose career spanned those tumultuous years, comes this personal chronicle of how it was. For those interested on the book "A Mindanao Story", you may call 926-2696 and look for Ging.



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# Gizmo Advisory Board promotes responsible mobile connectivity

RAISING CHILDREN HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY challenging for today's parents. Not only must they deal with traditional concerns like imparting proper guidance and values, they must also learn to cope with the changing family relationships brought about by evolving technologies, such as the ubiquitous mobile phone.

Recognizing the need for parents to address the issue of responsible mobile parenting, as well as take part in the holistic development of the Filipino child, Globe Gizmo Prepaid has partnered with The Parenting Company to convene some of the country's top family, communications and education experts for the first-ever advisory board on responsible mobile connectivity for the youth. Dubbed the Gizmo Advisory Board, the group seeks to study the Filipino youth's mobile usage habits, pinpointing significant issues and formulating projects that are attuned to the segment's distinct needs.

Included in this impressive roster are

celebrity mom and parenting advocate Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan; McCann Erickson Philippines chairman emerita Emily Abrera; national basketball team coach Chot Reyes; "Mad Science" entrepreneur and motivational speaker Francis Kong; fitness professional Tina Juan; Museo Pambata president Nina Lim-Yuson; The Learning Tree directress Francie Castaneda-Lacanilao and renowned educators, Dr. Leticia Penano-Ho and Dr. Grace Koo.

The Gizmo Advisory Board believes that parents should play an active role in monitoring their children's mobile usage and promoting responsible connectivity. Abrera, for one, believes in maintaining a balanced outlook regarding the use of technology. "I think parents today have a lot more distractions that they must deal with, which require a disciplined approach with their children. At the same time, technological advancements also bring more opportunities to build closer ties with children, and are a tremendous help in keeping track of

their whereabouts and safety," she says.

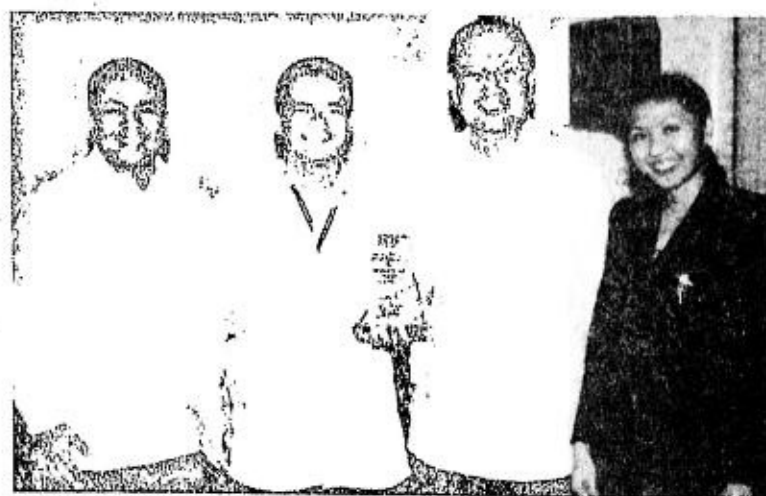
For its flagship project, the Gizmo Advisory Board challenges young school children to resolve the issue of banning mobile phones in schools. The Globe Gizmo Debate Tournament took place last September 12 at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. The event was participated in by selected pupils from The Learning Tree Child Growth Center Aged 10 to 12.

"As the country's first parental advisory board for responsible mobile connectivity, GAB aims to foster dialogue between adults and children regarding the proper use of technology," says board member and Learning Tree director Francie Castaneda-Lacanilao, adding that the debate gave children the proper venue to express their views and develop critical thinking. To prepare for the debate, promising students were handpicked to participate in special public speaking seminars facilitated by the Gizmo Advisory Board. These seminars equipped with the basic "This debate was especially significant since the children picked out the topic themselves," Lacanilao shares proudly.

The group recently presented their plans to Globe's senior executives, notably Mutya Laxa, head of segment marketing-youth; Cathy Santamaria, head of segment marketing; and Ferdy dela Cruz, head of wireless business.

"At the onset, Globe has been committed to making Globe Gizmo an innovation leader on content and communications that are beneficial to the development of the Filipino child," said Laxa, expressing appreciation for the group's expertise and wholehearted support for Globe Gizmo Prepaid.

Dela Cruz underscored the importance of instilling responsible mobile connectivity to Globe Gizmo's young subscriber base. "Advancements in communications technology serve not as a stand-in for human contact, but as an enhancer of existing relationships," says dela Cruz. "And through Globe Gizmo, Globe continuously strives to strengthen the bond between parent and child," he adds.



## IBM AWARDS EQUITABLE PCI BANK

Equitable PCI Bank recently received an award from IBM Philippines for being the first in the Philippines to deploy Linux on the IBM eServer zSeries platform. This innovative e-mail system in Mainframe was implemented by the bank in August of last year. The bank was also the first company in the Philippines to implement IBM eServer zSeries mainframe, as of May 2001. IBM cited Equitable PCI Bank in recognition of its leadership, willingness to innovate,

adaptability and strong technical expertise to achieve business and operational excellence. The awarding was well attended by IT senior professional of different companies using the mainframe system. Receiving the award for Equitable PCI Bank was (2nd from left) EPCIB VP Ergle Ong. IBM representatives at the awarding included (from left) Rodney Regalado, IBM Philippines president Joaquin Quintos IV, and Ding Ventura. Equitable PCI Bank is the Philippines' third largest bank.



GLOBE Gizmo Advisory Board (from left): Francis Kong; Globe head of segment marketing-youth Mutya Laxa; head of segment marketing Cathy Santamaria; Dr. Leticia Penano-Ho; head of wireless business Ferdy dela Cruz; Francis Castaneda-Lacanilao; head of Globe Gizmo Prepaid Pie Avila; Chot Reyes and Globe Gizmo Prepaid marketing manager Paulo Tirol; (from left, seated) Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Tina Juan, Emily Abrera, Dr. Grace Koo and Dr. Nina Lim-Yuson.



## SKATING CHAMP ERI REYES IS SM'S ICE PRINCESS

SM's 'Ice Princess' is skating champion Eri Reyes who won a grand slam - 5 gold medals in the recent 2005 Skate Asia Tournament held in Bangkok, Thailand. Crowd favorite, OB Montessori student Eri who's also celebrating her 11th birthday this October, bested other hopefuls in SM Megamall's very first 'Ice Princess' contest sponsored by Smart, Mossimo, Pepsi, Total, Girl Magazine, Selecta Moo, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3, held last Sept. 25, at SM Megamall Ice Skating rink. Eri performed to the lilting tempo of the 'Ice Princess' movie theme and impressed both judges and audiences with her characteristically dazzling graceful moves and smooth style. Eri also garnered the highest votes in Smart's texters choice for SM Ice Princess. With the accolades she has received, Eri is very grateful to her parents untiring support, the SM ice skating staff, everyone who bought her tickets and to all who voted to her.



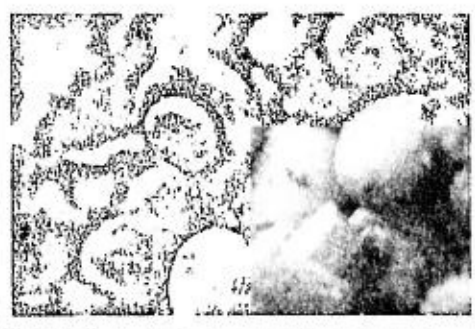
## AERO HIPHOP WITH CARLOS

Slimmers World International, the leader in fitness and slimming, invites you to move and groove to the hiphop beat with celebrity dance performer Carlos Morales, Mr. Slimmers World Great Body 2004 starting September. For details and inquiries, call their hotline numbers at 887-3533/091SLIMMERS (75466377).

## ProductFILES

### Holiday Inn Galleria Manila presents 'Flavours of Mediterranean'

THE RAPHAEL CAFÉ-RESTAURANT OF Holiday Inn Galleria Manila takes you to an epicurean journey to the "Flavours of the Mediterranean: Old World Cuisine Relived" as the café introduces a all new menu concept - highlighting the tasty, unique, healthy and exotic cuisine of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Deep. First stop of this bi-monthly themed epicurean journey is the naturally delicious flavors of idyllic Italy until Nov. 15 where all-time Italian favorites such as Escarole Salad with Melon and Prosciutto, Chicken Marsala, Crostini with Mushrooms, Bow Tie Pasta Vongole, Tiramisu and Panna Cotta with Caramel Sauce. Enjoy Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's scrumptious luncheon treat that is sure to tickle every gastronome's tastebuds to a luscious sensation daily. "Flavours of Mediterranean" is available for lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Sundays at P850++ per person. Raphael Café opens the promotion with a special "One plus One" deal, limited offer. Mediterranean dinner may also be enjoyed through a la carte orders from 6 to 10 p.m., with a 25 percent discount on food bill. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-7111 local 7416.



## Fr. Corsie Legaspi leads pilgrimage to Europe

THE FAMED HEALING PRIEST, FR. CORSIE Legaspi, will lead a pilgrimage departing Oct. 30 during golden autumn time. Healing sessions will be included, according to organizer Salve Uyloan (cp - 0917-4110154). While the most popular pilgrimage sites in Eastern Europe like the miraculous Black Madonna, the martyr site of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II and the apparition site of the Divine Mercy will be visited all in Poland, eucharistic celebration will be held in honor of the adored Sto Niño in Prague, Czech Republic. Completing the touristic attractions are Vienna and the exclusive Benedictine Abbey of Melk, Salzburg of the movie "Sound of Music", plus the fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle (after which the Disneyland logo is patterned). Oberammergau, site of the Passion Play every 10 years in Bavaria, the world's most charming countryside. Also included is Munich where Hitler's Nazi movement grew. Joiners are advised to book early as visa processing takes longer now. Call Adam's Express Travel at 521-1638/51/98.

## Food firm spearheads nutrition program among poor children

MEAT PROCESSING FIRM CDO-FOODS Inc has taken the initiative to ease the malnutrition problem in the country by launching a supplemental feeding program for poor and underweight children in Valenzuela city.

Now in its 16th week, the "Gabay Buhay" feeding program, under the watch of Odyssey Foundation Inc, has helped bring down the number of malnourished children in three sites in Barangay Paso, Valenzuela City since it was started in June this year, according to social worker Eleanor Erguiza.

Launched on June 4, 2004, Odyssey is a non-stock, non-profit organization that serves as the corporate social responsibility arm of CDO. It seeks to promote nourishment of children, child development, research and advocacy.

"At present, our feeding program covers 116 malnourished children with ages three to six years in Paso de Blas. Under the targeted 16-week program, supplemental feeding is conducted four times a week from Tuesday to Friday. We also give them vitamins, thanks to United Laboratories, which is one of our donors," Erguiza said.

On May 20, the Gabay Buhay team identified 116 children with weight below the normal level for their age in Sitio Kanluran, Sitio Sapa and Sitio Valdez. In particular, the beneficiaries included 23 children suffering from severe malnutrition and 93 children with mild malnutrition.

Erguiza noted that after ten weeks of supplemental feeding, a weight evaluation conducted

among the beneficiaries on Aug. 10, showed that none of the children was suffering from severe malnutrition anymore.

At the same time, the evaluation showed that the weights of 65 children were restored to the normal level. Only 33 children were found to be suffering from mild malnutrition, although their weights are expected to greatly improve toward the end of the supplemental feeding program in October. The rest of the children were still being prepared for weighing.

"This only shows that we are making a lot of progress as a foundation," Erguiza said. "It inspires us to expand the area coverage of supplemental feeding program in the future, as we feel that it is the right thing to do to curb the serious problem of malnutrition in the country."

She said that the problem is so severe that three of every 10 preschool children in the Philippines are considered underweight because their families could not provide adequate food for them. According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), some 3.7 million Filipino preschool children, with ages 0 to 5 years, were underweight as of 2001. Children become underweight when they suffer from acute or severe malnutrition.

With an accreditation from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Odyssey receives grants, gifts, legacies, donations and financial aids to assist its operations focused on nurturing the health of underweight children.



## LIVE THE GOOD LIFE WITH ALASKA CREMA

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and Mango Fragrances in the games and raffle. Faithful to the adage of making things extra special, Alaska Crema is reaching out to young urbanites who would like to experience the good life through an extraordinary moment of great music and great food. In the same way one can enjoy the gourmet goodness at home with Alaska Crema All Purpose Cream. The Alaska Crema Concert Tour Series kicked-off last May 13 in a packed Eastwood City Central Plaza. The succeeding events for the months of June and July was held at Robinson's Place Ermita (June 18), Corte delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center (June 26), Shangri-La Mall, Ortigas (July 2), and Activity Center of Market Market (July 3).

## PPS, Unilab launch KKK

THE PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY Inc (PPS) believes that our children will grow up to become productive adults if we take care of their health and nurture their potentials especially during their early formative years. This vision is daunting, yet PPS is determined to see it through, especially with the support of private companies like United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab), makers of Biogesc for Kids. To achieve this, PPS launched a program entitled "Kalusugan ng Kabataan: Ating Kinabukasan (KKK)".

Under the PPS-Unilab partnership, more Filipino children around the country will have more access to affordable quality health care programs. This includes children with special health care needs, particularly those who live in impoverished areas. The beneficiaries of this program will not only be given medical services but also non-medical aid like livelihood programs, health education and organization of mutual support groups for the children's families.

These services are implemented through community-based and family centered programs called KKK or "medical homes" wherein healthcare professionals like pediatricians and physicians team up with families in the community.

PPS coordinates with the government's Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) units and barangay officials with the participation of certain rural health units,

school-based clinics, hospital outpatient clinics, physician's offices and homes of families. Unilab is one among many other resources that help make PPS' endeavors succeed. Other groups to be involved are government agencies such as the DSWD and DepEd, local chapters of NGOs, LGUs, socio-civic groups and philanthropic organizations.

The program implementations started in Barangay Sto. Cristo, Quezon City, which is the pilot community. The Biogesc for Kids team jumpstarted the KKK program with the Alagang Barangay Free Clinic, wherein more than 1,000 children and teenagers from the community availed of free medical consultation from eight pediatricians and physicians. Through this medical mission, the pediatricians were able to set up a registry of children, particularly those with special health care needs. This way, they can continuously monitor the health of the children in Sto. Cristo. The society also gives free consultation and immunization for kids at the PPS Indigency Clinic every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Similar activities are also conducted in nine regional chapters of PPS in key cities nationwide.

With Unilab's support, PPS is optimistic that KKK can significantly address the increasing burden of illness afflicting the Filipino family today, especially among children. Not only will our children be saved from further illnesses, but they will also develop physical, mental and social well being.



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the  
 estate of the late MAXIMO U.  
 MERCADO has been extrajudi-  
 cially settled by his heirs as per  
 Doc. No. 269, Page No. 55, Book  
 No. II, Series of 2005 before  
 Notary Public Ma. Luz Victoria A.  
 Ballosteros of Makati City.  
 (PDI-October 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

Thank You Holy Spirit  
 From: Gemma Santos

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT  
 From Earl Roy Del Rosario

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## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Republic of the Philippines  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**  
 Pilar St., Zamboanga City

## INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers to submit bids for the following:

| PRJ/O NO. | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                        | BID DOCUMENT FEE |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8467      | Water Meter 1/2" Ø, Class B<br>For Quarterly stock used at Property Section<br>Approved Budget Cost: P1,143,000.00 | P 1,000.00       |

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the BAC Secretariat, 3/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of minimal non-refundable document fee. Issuance on Bid documents will be on September 27 to October 13, 2005. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Licensed Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before October 13, 2005 to qualify for bidding:

- Legal Documents

1. A copy of the Department of Trade & Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security & Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
2. Valid and Current mayor's Permit/Municipal license for the year 2005.
3. Taxpayer's Identification Number
4. Statement from Bidder that it is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69, 4 of IRR-A, R.A. 9184.

- Technical Documents

1. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
  - a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:  
 The Name of the Contract;  
 Date of Contract;  
 Amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;  
 Date of Contract Started;  
 End user's acceptance, if completed; and
  - b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.

For details please refer to Republic Act 9184 under Section 23.6, I.1.2. under Technical Documents

- Financial Documents

1. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or



**THE HERITAGE PARK**  
FORT BONIFACIO  
Funeral Home and Crematory  
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

**B8**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2005

RATE  
P245 per column centimeter  
(All prices exclusive of B-VAT)

DEADLINE  
for reservations / cancellations / corrections  
Monday to Sunday  
12:00 noon  
Day before publication

# OBITUARIES



"A rare and great light has gone out, but one  
has made all others shine brighter."

## Consuelo Julao Faustino

"TMA"

December 06, 1924 – September 30, 2005

Her loving husband, Pablo D. Faustino & son Arturo J. Faustino

Children : Zenaida, Felipe, Armando, Aurora,  
Valentino, Rommel & Cynthia

Daughters & son-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren,  
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sto. Cristo Chapel,  
Sto. Cristo, Guagua, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 05, 2005  
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Cristo Chapel, Sto. Cristo,  
Guagua, Pampanga



"Mando in Me et ego in vobis"  
"Remain in Me, as I remain in you."  
John 15: 4

The Religious of the Assumption of the Philippines-Thailand Province  
recommend to your prayers

**Sister Maria Bernarda du Sacré Coeur**

*Maria Milagros Golez y Ledesma*

27 years missionary in West Africa  
who returned to the Father  
on 3 October 2005 at the age of 73  
in her 52nd Year of Religious Profession

Funeral Mass  
Wednesday, 5 October 2005  
8:30 a.m.  
Assumption College Main Chapel



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be a fitting tribute to your  
departed loved one.*

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**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

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and bank-to-bank payments**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**  
1 Copy of Death Certificate  
2 Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS  
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

## CLASSIFIEDS



HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Goods and Services (BAC-GS), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

| Item No. | Name of Projects (Description)                                                                                                                                        | Approved Budget for the Contract | Cost of bid Documents (Non-Refundable) |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| I        | Provision of Security Services at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007                                                           | P 96,038,400.00                  | P 15,000.00                            |
| II       | Provision of Janitorial Services at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007                                                         | P 33,687,005.76                  | P 6,500.00                             |
| III      | Provision of Postage/Freight Services for the transmittal of pouches and parcels to Pag-IBIG Fund Provincial Branches and various locations Worldwide for Y2006-Y2007 | P 12,300,331.00                  | P 2,500.00                             |
| IV       | Preventive Maintenance of Airconditioning Units installed at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007                                | P 3,292,200.00                   | P 1,000.00                             |
| V        | Supply and Maintenance of Ornamental (Indoor) Plants at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007 (Lease Contract Basis)              | P 2,318,688.00                   | P 500.00                               |

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar project, within the required period specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for each project, with a contract amount of at least 50% of the approved budget of the project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| ACTIVITIES |                           |                            |                             |                  |                        |                 |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Item No.   | Issuance of Bid Documents | Pre-Bid Conference         | Opening of Bids (tentative) | Bid Evaluation   | Post-Qualification     | Notice of Award |
| I          | Sept. 27, 2005            | Oct. 14, 2005<br>1:30 p.m. | Nov. 3, 2005<br>1:30 p.m.   | Nov. 4-18, 2005  | Nov. 19-25, 2005       | Dec. 9, 2005    |
| II         | Sept. 27, 2005            | Oct. 17, 2005<br>1:30 p.m. | Nov. 4, 2005<br>1:30 p.m.   | Nov. 5-21, 2005  | Nov. 22-28, 2005       | Dec. 13, 2005   |
| III        | Sept. 27, 2005            | Oct. 18, 2005<br>1:30 p.m. | Nov. 7, 2005<br>1:30 p.m.   | Nov. 6-22, 2005  | Nov. 23-29, 2005       | Dec. 14, 2005   |
| IV         | Sept. 27, 2005            | Oct. 19, 2005<br>1:30 p.m. | Nov. 8, 2005<br>1:30 p.m.   | Nov. 7-23, 2005  | Nov. 24-30, 2005       | Dec. 15, 2005   |
| V          | Sept. 27, 2005            | Oct. 21, 2005<br>1:30 p.m. | Nov. 9, 2005<br>1:30 p.m.   | Nov. 10-24, 2005 | Nov. 25 - Dec. 1, 2005 | Dec. 16, 2005   |

The venue for the abovementioned Activities shall be at Room 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Fund Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Ave., Makati City.

Bid Documents will be made available only to prospective bidders upon payment of the required fee to the Cash Division, Treasury Department, Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters. It may then be obtained from the Procurement Section, General Services 7th floor, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City upon payment of the corresponding fee.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Angeles P. Baleña, Jose Maria M. Diaz or Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-62, 894-58-15 or visit our Corporate Website at <http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph> or e-mail us at [hdmigps@info.com.ph](mailto:hdmigps@info.com.ph)

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. FARIA  
Senior Vice President, Technical Support  
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI-Sept 27 & Oct. 4, 2005)

## CREBA-HUDCC annual convention to be held at Tagaytay Highlands

EXCLUSIVE AND LUX-  
urious Tagaytay High-  
lands will host the 2005  
annual convention  
jointly held by CREBA  
and HUDCC on October  
13 and 14, dubbed as  
"CREBA-HUDCC: Link-  
ing the Best for Philip-  
pine Property and Tour-  
ism to the World".  
Mr. Choy L. Alas,  
chairman of the 2005

convention, said that  
aside from providing par-  
ticipants the rare oppor-  
tunity to enjoy the cool  
ambiance and posh facili-  
ties of Tagaytay High-  
lands, the convention  
more importantly aims to  
provide the forum for lo-  
cal and international  
stakeholders to be ap-  
prised of recent business  
opportunities and trends

gathering momentum in  
the world's real estate  
market.  
Foreign speakers  
have been lined up to  
provide first hand infor-  
mation on the various  
opportunities and trends  
waiting to be tapped by  
both local and foreign  
investors among them  
Alan JM Dalgleish from  
Colliers International-

Philippines; Bruce  
Tulloch from Resorts  
Suites Int'l.-Asia Pacific;  
Ivor Clucas from RCI  
Asia, and Her Excellency  
Erendira Paz from the  
Mexican Embassy.  
Dr. Nathaniel von  
Einsiedel will speak  
about "Development Op-  
portunities in Key Philip-  
pine Cities", while Heri-  
tage Conservation Soci-

ety president Gemma  
Cruz-Araneta will talk  
about the Philippines as  
the "Pride of Place". The  
PCCI will be represented  
by its vice-president  
Samie Lim, who will  
share about PCCI's  
"Investour 5" program.  
They will be joined  
as speakers by Usec. Os-  
car Palabay of the DOT,  
GM Robert Dean Barbers  
of the PTA, and Leo  
Picaso from the Philip-  
pine Tour Operators As-  
sociation.

The formal sessions  
for the first day will close  
through the auctioning of  
bank foreclosed prop-  
erties, and the after-dinner  
Dance Competition at the  
Highlands veranda.

The earlier part of  
the second day of the  
confab will be devoted to  
a discussion of CREBA's  
continuing advocacies  
and other concerns  
among the leaders of the  
various agencies involved  
in housing. The panelists  
are Vice-Chairman  
Amado S. Bagatsing of  
HUDCC, Sec. Nasser C.  
Pangandaman of the  
DLR, Sec. Michael T.  
Defensor of DENR, Usec.  
Eduardo R. Soliman of  
the DILG, Pres. Romero  
F. S. Quimbo of the  
Pag-IBIG Fund, Pres.  
Gonzalo B. A. Bongolao  
of the HGC, EVP Fermin  
Arzaga of the NHHMC,  
Commissioner Romulo  
Q. Fabul of the HLURE,  
and GM Federico A. Laxa  
of the NHA.

Vice-President and  
HUDCC chairman Noli L.  
de Castro will deliver his  
speech after introduc-  
tion by HUDCC sec-  
retary-general Usec.  
Lucille P. Ortile.

Major sponsor in this  
year's confab is Boysen  
Paint. Other sponsors in-  
clude Crown Asia Prop-  
erties, VV Soliven Group  
of Companies, Home De-  
velopment Mutual Fund  
(Pag-IBIG), Global  
Brands Company,  
Cityland Group of Com-  
panies, Duraville Realty  
& Marketing, and Sta.  
Lucia Development Inc.

Interested partici-  
pants may call CREBA  
secretariat at 373-2270  
to 75.

Republic of the Philippines  
**SENATE**  
Pasay City

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2006.

| SERVICE CONTRACT                                              | PROPOSED BUDGET  | NON-REFUNDABLE FEE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Preventive Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals          | Php 1,039,500.00 | Php 200.00         |
| 2. Internet Subscription                                      | 1,500,000.00     | Php 200.00         |
| 3. Housekeeping & Other Related Services                      | 15,000,000.00    | Php 200.00         |
| 4. Rental of Copier Machines                                  | (actual)         | Php 200.00         |
| 5. Rental of Shuttle Bus                                      | 1,920,000.00     | Php 200.00         |
| 6. Corporate Health Program (HMO)                             | 10,000.00/empl.  | Php 200.00         |
| 7. Canteen Concessioning & Catering                           | (actual)         | Php 200.00         |
| 8. Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines | (actual)         | Php 200.00         |
| 9. Hauling & Disposal of Garbage                              | 180,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 10. Rental of Drinking Fountains                              | 186,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 11. Sanitizers & Automatic Air Fresheners                     | 228,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 12. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program                     | 156,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 13. Preventive Maintenance of York Chillers                   | 276,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 14. Subscription to Cable Television                          | 450,000.00       | Php 200.00         |
| 15. Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews    | (actual)         | Php 200.00         |
| 16. Purchase of Video Documentation Equipment                 | 1,490,000.00     | Php 200.00         |

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting October 5-13, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contract. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of the pre-bidding conferences, opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at [www.procurement.gov.ph](http://www.procurement.gov.ph) and the Senate website at [www.senate.gov.ph](http://www.senate.gov.ph)

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 4 & 8, 2005)



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of the mouse away.**



MIRACLE Foods  
from the Bible /C4

## LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)  
or email us at pr\_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS &amp; BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

## How to eat right and enjoy your food

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE that eating properly means boring and bland "health" food so they have to skip tasty treats. Nothing could be farther from the truth according to nutritional experts like well-known dietitian Sanirose Orbeta.

She says eating right is a matter of balance. There are no "good" or "bad" foods, as long as amounts taken and frequency of eating are regulated. In other words, *lechon* can be part of a healthy diet as long as you don't have too much of it and too often.

What you eat every day determines whether your diet is healthy or not, Orbeta explains. High-calorie, high-sugar, high-fat food will not make you unhealthy or overweight as long as you don't eat it everyday.

Orbeta's list of eight skills needed to eat right and enjoy our food is appropriate in spite of the different diets around.

## Eight skills

## Master your diet.

You cannot master something you don't understand. Learn about good sources of nutritious foods. Check out the resources of The Food and Nutrition Research Institute. By knowing basic nutrition principles, you can resist fad diets and eat properly.

## Manage your weight.

Successful weight management involves both diet and exercise (please note that "diet" simply means "way of eating"), according to Orbeta.

In my experience, one of the big mistakes in weight control is to rely only on diet or only on exercise. I see many people struggling to eat as

little as possible, making themselves miserable in the process, when they could be eating more if they only exercised.

On the other hand, I also come across many people who "kill" themselves with exercise but cannot control

their weight because they eat too much.

## Control your weak points.

Your "weak points" could be defined as the foods that make you lose control. They are also called "trigger" foods because they provoke you into overeating.

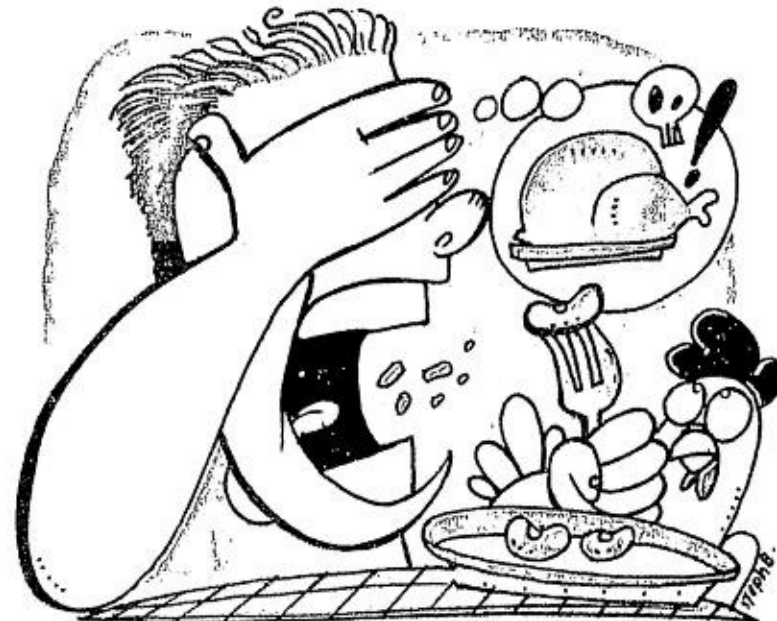
I usually advise people to take small portions of their cravings so they don't binge but the advice does not work for people who can't stop eating once they taste their trigger foods. I control my weak points by not having them in my house and eating them only in a restaurant or party.

Orbeta says "weak points" can also be defined as nutritional gaps in your diet. For example, nutritionists recommend eating at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. If this is your weak point, you need to do something about it because fruits and vegetables are vital to your health.

## Enjoy the taste of eating right.

Orbeta says it is possible to eat healthy and enjoy it if you know how to make the right choices at home, when dining out, during meetings, outings or travels. Eating well doesn't mean surviving on just cucumber and carrot sticks. Choosing grilled chicken instead of fried is an example of how to eat right. Sharing a piece of cake with a friend is another.

## Relax with food.



Food is not the enemy. It is not only one of life's great pleasures but it is also a necessity for survival. Feeling guilty for making a poor choice (like having too much pizza) is counterproductive. It can lead to overcompensation (skipping meals or eating only crackers for lunch), which in turn can result in overeating, setting into motion the whole vicious cycle.

## Drink lots of water.

We have all heard the advice to drink at least eight glasses of water a day. A more modern term is "total water" meaning fluid from all sources—drinking water, juice, milk, coffee, tea, soda, fruits, vegetables, and other foods and beverages.

The total water daily requirement is 11 cups for women and 15 cups for men. People who exercise or live in hot humid conditions (translation: all of us) need more.

Another formula is to consume one ounce of fluid for every two pounds of body weight. Put another way, divide your weight in half and that is how many ounces of fluid you need. For example, if you weigh 120 pounds, you would need 60 ounces or 7.5 cups of liquids a day. Remember that your body gets its remaining fluid needs from food.

Studies show that people get 50 percent of their fluid needs from liquids, 40 percent from food, and 10 percent from the digestive system (it makes about one cup of fluid as it metabolizes food).

Athletes who exercise vigorously a few hours a day should weigh before and after exercise and replace every pound lost with two cups of

fluid.

Dietary supplements are supposed to be just that. Multi-vitamins and other health supplements, herbal or otherwise, will never take the place of a good diet. All the supplements in the world cannot replace the nutrients and phytochemicals in fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds.

Human-made products cannot substitute for Mother Nature's wonderful and amazing bounty.

## Walk your talk.

Knowledge is useless if we don't practice what we learn. Many people could actually give a seminar on why it is important to eat right and exercise regularly. They are knowledgeable on nutrition, health and exercise but they lack the discipline or the motivation to make real changes in their lifestyle.

Visit [www.tinajuanfitness.info](http://www.tinajuanfitness.info).

## EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Prone hip extension  
on mini ball

THIS EXERCISE STRENGTHENS AND firms shoulders, buttocks, and hamstrings or back of the thighs.

## Equipment:

Exercise mat and mini ball

## Exercise technique:

1. Lie face down with the ball underneath your pelvis.
2. Support your body weight on your forearms and toes.
3. Contract your buttocks and lift the right leg a few inches higher than hip level.

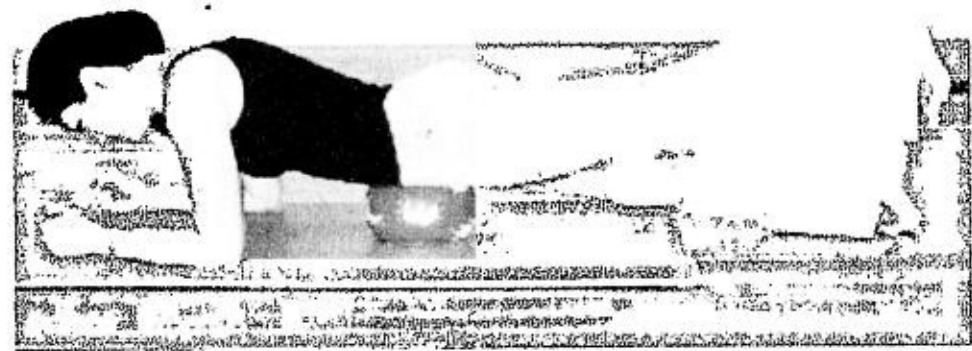
4. Slowly lower down. Do the desired number of repetitions then switch legs.

## Performance tips:

1. Exhale as you lift the leg; inhale as you lower it down.
2. Look down at the floor but keep your neck in line with your spine.
3. Lift your leg with control. Contract your buttocks muscles first before lifting.
4. To make the exercise harder, use ankle weights.

## Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions on each leg.



## Walkathon for education on Oct. 8

LOPEZ GROUP chair and chief executive Oscar M. Lopez will lead the "Lakad Mo, Pangarap Ko 2 Nationwide na 'to'" walkathon on Oct. 8.

Organized by Knowledge Channel, the event, now on its second year, will be staged in Manila, Cebu and Davao.

In Metro Manila, the walkathon starts at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Plaza in Luneta and ends at the Cune-ta

Astrodome in Pasay City. Some 8,000 participants are expected.

Starting point in Cebu is the provincial capitol and in Davao, the Matina ABS-CBN office.

The fundraiser aims to raise money to enable Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. (KCFI) to bring educational television programs to more public schools.

Fee is P200 each participant. Text or call (0917)8279947.



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| 5 - year      | 11.50 %        | P10,665                |

\* Rates apply only for new loan releases where purpose is acquisition, construction or refinancing. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

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The **WPP** Photo Congress 2005

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9th to 11th of October 2005

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Booking the High-End Bride  
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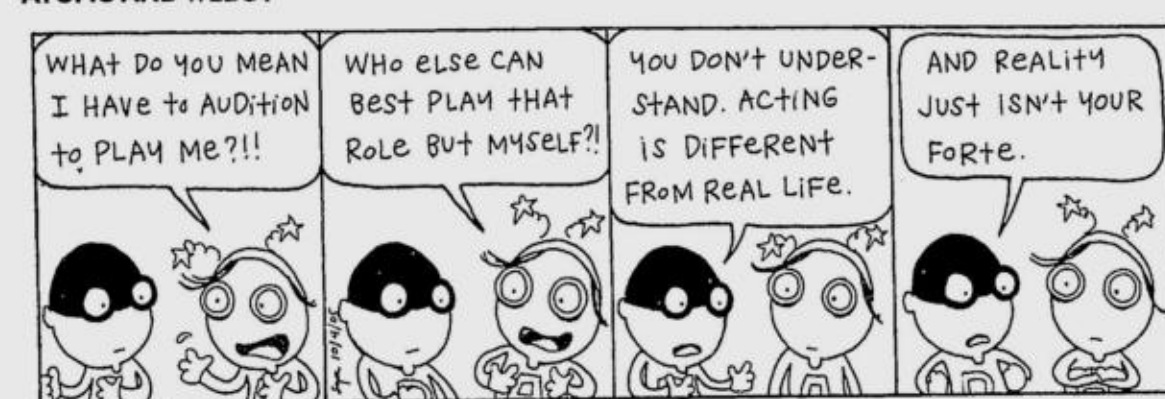


ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You have a subtle appreciation for timing and beauty. You understand nuances and moods. (You have impeccable taste.) You're highly independent; nevertheless, you appear cooperative to others. (A talented trick, indeed!) You have wit and humor. Others often underestimate you. A lively year with important choices lies ahead for you. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Susan Sarandon, actress; Buster Keaton, comedian/filmmaker; Ann Rice, novelist.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to deal with partners, close friends and members of the general public. People seem to be upbeat. This makes you happy too!

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): This is a pleasant day to just goof off and enjoy yourself. Playful activities with children will be fun, and romantic interludes are wonderful escapes.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your state of mind determines how your day unfolds. Today you feel upbeat and positive; however, you would rather play than work.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Coworkers are positive, helpful and friendly today. Because of this, work with others. Gain their confidence. A happy work environment is always more productive for everyone.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to deal with family matters. However, don't make major expenditures today. Talk to relatives, but refrain from important decisions. (Wait until tomorrow.)

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're tempted to spend money quite easily today. My advice to you is: Don't do it. Wait until tomorrow. Window-shop if you like. Do your homework. Just don't give in to your impulses today.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Moon is in your sign for most of today; however, it is sort of wobbly. This means you should avoid important decisions. You should also avoid major expenditures.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. Take a breather if you can. Pamper yourself. If you take care of yourself, you can be more patient with partners. (That's where the rub is.)

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with a female friend can be pleasant today. Don't hide. Accept all invitations. Socialize with others. However, don't commit to anything important.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): With the Moon high in your chart now, you're a bit high-viz. Be aware of this today. People will notice you. Conversations with bosses, parents or authority figures are significant.

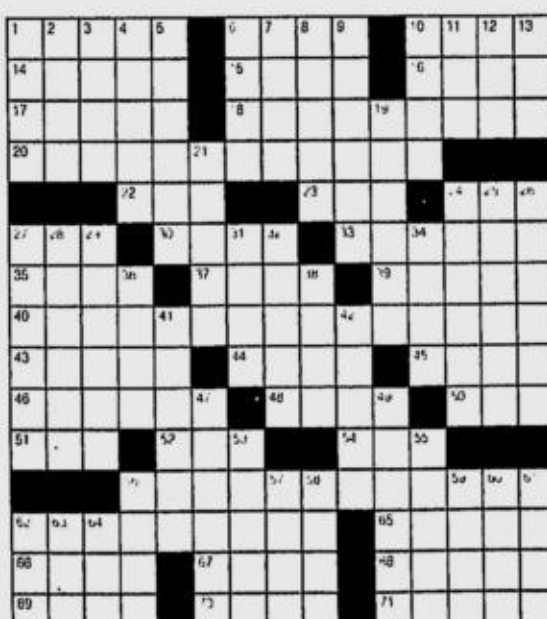
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's hard to get down to work today. You would rather be anywhere else but here. You want to escape to somewhere with white sands where they serve you drinks with pink parasols in them.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): Many of you are focused on financial deals to determine how to share jointly held property. This is not a good day to make important decisions about this. Wait until tomorrow.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Track shapes
- 6 Free from doubt
- 10 O'Neal of basketball
- 14 Earn
- 15 Money holder
- 16 Actor William
- 17 Ascend
- 18 Exact opposites
- 20 Glitz and glamour
- 22 Cowboy Ritter
- 23 Second person
- 24 Sack
- 27 Start of a refrain
- 30 National sport of Japan
- 33 Deep secrets
- 35 Maglie and Mineo
- 37 Demolish
- 39 Slugger Hank
- 40 Second moonwalker
- 43 Crownlet
- 44 Tracks to NYC
- 45 Trig ratio
- 46 Lays down the law
- 48 English count
- 50 Giant slugger
- 51 Raised railways
- 52 polio
- 54 Nat'l driver's aid
- 56 Feet warmers
- 62 Pawn shop customer?
- 65 Greek colony
- 66 Tissue additive
- 67 Old-time actress Naldi
- 68 School collars and jackets
- 69 Bad luck
- 70 Small suitcase
- 71 Zellweger of "Chicago"



By John Underwood  
New York, NY

10/4/05

### Monday's Puzzle Solved



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### DOWN

- 1 Epps of "Scream 2"
- 2 Actress Miles
- 3 Colo. neighbor
- 4 "Liebestraum" composer

- 5 Stone monuments
- 6 Great quantity
- 7 Arm bone
- 8 Swanky
- 9 Lice and ticks, e.g.
- 10 Oxford or Mary Jane
- 11 Newman movie
- 12 Is for several?
- 13 Gal. parts
- 19 More than one
- 21 Outlying community
- 24 Latino quarter
- 25 Sprinklo with oil
- 26 Diving bird
- 27 African post
- 28 Type of tire
- 29 Constantly
- 31 Heavy hammer
- 32 Ricky and David's dad
- 34 Rakes
- 36 Knightly titles
- 38 Cornell or Pound
- 41 City on the Merrimack
- 42 Pianist Claudio
- 47 Exuding
- 49 More indolent
- 53 Turkish seaport
- 55 Nitrogen, once
- 56 Pose like Charles Atlas
- 57 Elusive hairy humanoid
- 58 Swaddle
- 59 Privy to
- 60 "kleino Nachtmusik"
- 61 MS enclosure
- 62 British rule over India
- 63 Actor Wallach
- 64 Jail bird

MIKROKOSMOS



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



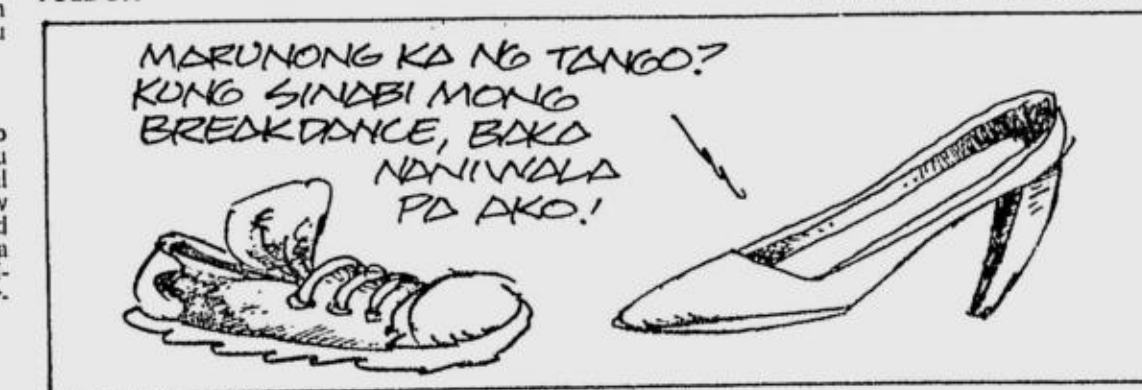
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING







BABY Cruz and daughter Trisha Cruz with PR man Donnie Ramirez



TESSIE Briones, Maritess Pineda and Mely Hechanova



NORI Ongsiako, Carrie Bautista and Lisa Romualdez



MILA Lim and Myrna Borrromeo



TESS Castro and Kim Lokin



MABEL Abano, Cez Manalo, Evelyn Duran and Pitang Tiongson



TESSIE Amparo, Dr. Elenita Binay; one of the hostesses, Karen Macasaet, and Fe Ng



MOI, Jojo Zabarte, Alex V. H. and Becky Garcia

## Society photographer gets the limelight



LEO Picaso, president of Philippine Tours Operators Association; Patty Chiong of Air Philippines, and Rhoda Campos, VP Marketing, Rustan's Cosmetics and Toiletries



MOTHER and daughter Alessa and Rose Libongco, director of sales and marketing, The Westin Philippine Plaza



TONI Gregory of Bridges@Com, with society gals Pilie Aquino and Nini Layug



MY PAL Johnny Litton with Rustan's Mariel Joaquin and Maling Francisco

ALMOST ALL OF MANILLE'S WOMEN of stature arrived in their finest for a late-afternoon *merienda* at the chi-chi Manila Golf Club to greet one of the nicest guys in town, ace wedding and society photographer Alex Van Hagen, on his birthday.

The super fun get-together was hosted by close pals of the celebrator like Nene Leonor; fashionably slim Nini Licaros; ultra-glam Mellie Ablaza; vivacious Natty Pappas; Monaco's asset, Consul Fortune Ledesma; lady of ladies Chit Salud; Letty vda. de Syquia; fashion plate Fe Rodriguez; sultry beauty May Neri; and society women Helen Ong, Agnes Huibonhoa and Karen Macasaet.

Makati's super gracious first lady, Dr. Ellen Binay, together with Menchu Concepcion, Justa Tantoco, Pitang Tiongson, Betsy Tenchavez, Chona Lopez, Nellie Bengzon, Chloe Periquet, Ces Manalo and Carrie Bautista, enjoyed the excellent *merienda* prepared by the club's top chefs.

In one table, discussing the political situation, were the *tres charmante* Rep. Cynthia Villar, eye-catcher Daisy Payumo, Edith Rabat, Criselda Lontok, Frannie Jacinto, Jojo Zabarte, Myrna Borrromeo, Cecil Limjoco, Tessie Cruz, Maritess Pineda, Fe Ng and Star's Grace Glory Go, who breezed in, socialized a bit then dashed out "to run to a meeting," blowing the birthday boy and lady of substance Tita Trillo, renowned gourmet and wine connoisseur, kisses.

Dr. Danny Vazquez, who the ladies call "the bravest man in town," came solo as his wife, Ising Madrigal, was nursing a bad cold. He said hello to the ladies, greeted Alex, chatted with fashion czar Pitoy Moreno, taipan Ernie Yu, and close pals Donnie Ramirez and Resty Vergara, then told *moi*, laughing, "I feel like a senator running for office," before leaving for another engagement. That's Dr. Vazquez—real cool.

A radiant Becky Garcia gave details of her wedding reception in Athens, Greece, to those at her table, *palanggas*: Yolly Ayson, Lulu Boon, Cathy Park, Eva Abesamis, Offie Recto, Nini Valdez, gorgeous mother-and-daughter team of Franck Provost and Jewellmer, Baby Cruz and Tisha; and Mabel Abano.

Late-ish but with time for some gossip and chit-chat were Rep. Kim Lokin, Mila Lim, Tess Castro, Evelyn Duran, Celine Bautista, Nini Layug, Tessie Briones, Ofelia Trinidad, *INQUIRER*'s body beautiful columnist Cory Quirino, Tessie Amparo, and elegant Fe Yu.

"I love holding a party or show in this place. You see the well-manicured golf course, beautiful tall trees and interesting people," eye-catching May Neri told *moi*. I agreed completely, *palanggas*.



SOCIETY women of substance with celebrator Alex Van Hagen: May Neri, Fortune Ledesma, Agnes Huibonhoa, Helen Ong, Nini Leonor, Natty Pappas, Mellie Ablaza, Nini Licaros and Karen Macasaet

Another blessed year for the unassuming Alex VH who blew out one candle on his cake and shyly thanked his guests.

### Beauty destination

When the marketing rah-rah team of the brilliant beauty Rhoda Campos (the brains behind Rustan's cosmetics and toiletries) invited me to the launch of *Essenses*: The Ultimate Beauty Destination at, where else but the fab new Gateway Mall at Araneta Center, I couldn't say no, *palanggas*.

Though it took an hour and 20 minutes to Cubao, *moi* had no regrets. Beautiful, intelligent women of the travel and tourism industry took part in the unveiling of Rustan's super portfolio of global brands of cosmetics—from skin, hair, nails and body care to fragrance.

Statuesque former beauty queen and former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz breezed in early for her makeover by Clarins. Articulate Rose Libongco, director of marketing for the Westin Philippine Plaza; Travel Time's Susan Calo Medina; Air Philippines' secret weapon, vivacious Patty Chiong; and super-achiever Lynn Romero of Worldexco were the glamorous faces of Philippine tourism.

Rosvi Gaetos of Philippine Convention and Visitors Bureau and Singapore Airlines' Rita Dy were promoting Manila, "still the best place to visit," dahlings.

The first lady of the Araneta Center, the Southern lady of ladies Judy Araneta Roxas, was glad Rustan's was helping the perfumed set get to Gateway.

Rustan's cosmetics and toiletries division is promoting the most-awaited namedroppable high-end cosmetics and skincare products at



EVA Abesamis

*Essenses*.

"A beautiful face and a beautiful smile is what tourists will see when they stop into any Rustan's store. It's a real destination for beauty," said beautiful Rhoda Campos, *palanggas*.

### Holiday bazaar

The Catholic Women's Club (CWC) is holding its annual charity ball and *tres* popular holiday bazaar, Casa y Jardin.

The ball, "Twist and Shout—The Groovy Decade of the '60s," will be at 7 p.m., Oct. 8, InterContinental Hotel. It will feature a '60s medley dance number by CWC members and a performance from the Step Dance Studio, *palanggas*. The Flintstones band will play '60s dance tunes.

Funds will go to the construction of a community center in Gen. Nakar, Quezon to benefit victims of the 2004 typhoons and floods.

The annual ball committee is headed by young civic-oriented women achievers Marilen Elizalde and her co-chairs Sofia Zobel Elizalde and Junie Peña.



THE ANNUAL BALL committee. (seated) Co-chair Sofia Zobel Elizalde, chair Marilen Elizalde, Ana Rocha and Ane Preysler; members Ana Marie Saguil, Nikki Valerio, Junie Peña, Fiona Ottiger and Techie Hagedorn

## Are you safe in your bed?

IN 1984, THE 26-YEAR-OLD SON OF British Rolf Gordon developed cancer of the testicles. Though the disease was in an advanced stage, aggressive chemotherapy seemed to have removed all cancerous parts. The doctor was optimistic he would recover.

Then the young man stayed in an old cottage for a few months. The cancer recurred.

"Then one day," Gordon recalled, "a friend who is familiar with dowsing, visited the cottage and was shocked to discover a very strong underground vein of water—detrimental to human health—running directly under my son's bed. She persuaded him to move out of the cottage."

"Unfortunately, his cancer had by then spread to his liver and, even though he survived a major operation, he was too weak to take the next vital chemotherapy session and died in 1985."

The son was about to get married

when his cancer was discovered.

### Lifelong research

Gordon only realized later the harmful effects of the underground vein of water which he called "earth rays" on his son's health and began a lifelong research on the subject to prevent other people from suffering the same fate. The result of his investigation is in a small but very important book, "Are You Sleeping in a Safe Place?"

I first came across this valuable book in 1989 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, when I brought there Filipino healer, Emilio Laporga, to demonstrate his healing method in an international conference on Alternative Healing.

During that conference, I met many powerful healers, serious researchers, and scientists from different parts of the world. One of this was Conde Menno Van Limburg Stirrum, vice president of the Argentinian Research Foundation on Earth Rays and a member of the Dutch

### INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



Society of Parapsychological Research.

He gave me a photocopy of Gordon's book for which I shall forever be grateful. Without him, I would never have known about the harmful effects of earth rays and what we can do to detect and avoid them.

Gordon says in the preface to the book, "I found to my astonishment that considerable research had been carried out in Germany over the last 50 years, which supported the theory that one is unlikely to develop cancer unless one has slept or stayed for a long period over harmful earth rays. One medical doctor, Dr. Hagar of Stettin, has found the theo-

ry borne out in 5,348 cases."

These rays have already been measured according to established laws of physics.

### Spreading the knowledge

Not wanting his son to have died in vain, Gordon wrote the book "Are You Sleeping in a Safe Place?" to spread the knowledge to as many people in the world as possible.

The harmful effect of earth rays was known to ancient people. The Chinese 4,000 years ago avoided building houses on certain places. Sig Lonegren, who has dowsed hundreds of ancient sites, never found harmful rays under houses they lived in, merely showing they instinctively knew where these rays were and avoided them.

Real estate developers in the Philippines seldom, if ever, consider the earth rays when locating a housing project. Some developers have even built subdivisions on former cemeteries and hospitals.

But that's a different story. Although such places also give off negative vibrations, it is not our topic at the moment.

It is good to know that in recent years, developers and even individual buyers of real property have begun to ask whether the site has good energy or good Feng Shui. They never did that before.

Aside from Feng Shui, it seems we must now also consider harmful earth rays. Gordon quoted a Swedish engineer and dowser who said, "It is stupid to buy or build a house without first checking the ground for harmful earth rays."

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail [jtlcauco@tri-isis.com](mailto:jtlcauco@tri-isis.com) or [inner-awareness\\_2005@yahoo.com](mailto:inner-awareness_2005@yahoo.com) or visit <http://www.jtlcauco.shorturl.com>. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday.



## LIFESTYLE

## Miracle foods from the Bible

Part I

THREE THOUSAND years ago, the scriptures described discoveries about how certain foods performed miracle cures. Hundreds of ancient natural remedies for hundreds of ailments are available.

## INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



the ear). As an anesthetic and antiseptic, emergency relief can be had with just a few drops to the tooth or gum.

Menthol dissolves gallstones. It is known to reduce bile cholesterol and increase bile acids.

## Natural Viagra/levitra/cialis

The Book of Daniel mentions a food that reportedly promotes better sexual performance for men while also treating Parkinsons disease.

Beans were Jacob's regular fare. "Feed me with that red pottage for I am faint. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and a pottage of lentils." Genesis 25:30-34

It contains plant estrogens that can reduce cholesterol by 19 percent due to its fiber and lecithin content (The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, October 1983).

Fava beans are the best sources of L-Dopa, the drug used to control trembling in Parkinsons disease. It also stimulates strong, healthy erections in men. It is said 8-16 ounces of fava beans may be enough to give relief to male potency problems. Note that fava bean sprouts contain ten times the L-Dopa found in the bean.

Love and light!



## MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

## What is Breast Cancer and what are its common causes?

Breast Cancer is a malignancy of the glandular epithelium of the breast and the most common cancer among Filipino women. The etiology of the vast majority of the breast cancer cases is unknown. However, a number of risk factors for the disease have been established. These risk factors include female gender, increasing age, family history of breast cancer at a young age, early menarche, late menopause, older age at first live childbirth, prolonged hormone replacement, prior exposure to therapeutic irradiation, benign proliferative breast disease and mutations in the genes BRCA1 and BRCA2. It is advised as a screening procedure to have monthly breast self-examination, annual breast examination by a trained health worker for all child-bearing women, annual mammography at age 35 with repeat test upon recommendation of attending physician.

## Take Charge Doc!



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Ricardo Limso Medical Center and Brokenshire Hospital in Davao City, Dr. Abdel P. Gallea. Dr. Gallea specializes in Uro-Oncology. He earned his medical degree from Davao Medical School Foundation in 1995, followed by his residency training for Internal Medicine in 2000. He later took his subspecialization training in Oncology from St. Luke's Medical Center in 2003. Dr. Gallea is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Society of Medical Oncologists. He is married and blessed with one child.

MEDICard members may visit him for consultation services at Ricardo Limso Medical Center, Mondays to Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12 noon and Brokenshire Hospital, Mondays to Fridays from 1pm to 4pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at [inquiry@medicardphil.com](mailto:inquiry@medicardphil.com) for your inquiries on health matters.

## Headaches/palpitations/cataracts

This plant, which sheltered the Virgin Mary in her flight to Egypt, contains six chemicals that protect your vision.

Romero, the Pilgrims Flower, is now known as rosemary. A member of the mint family, it, together with lemon balm, is associated with long life. Drinking rosemary tea can help fight cataract. Add ½ ounce of rosemary to one pint of boiled water. Allow to steep for 10 minutes. Strain and drink. The drink is also great for headaches, migraine.

Rosemary wine calms the heart and eases edema of the limbs. It can be added to white wine and left for four days. A small glass between

meals should give relief.

For failing memory, rosemary tea is also supposed to be good. It also helps relax stiff joints and energize the body.

## Rosemary bath

Boil in 1-3/4 pint of water a heedful of rosemary petals. Mix with your bath water. This is a mixture soak. Rosemary can awaken the senses.

## Headaches/gallstones/toothaches

One of the better known bitter herbs of the Last Supper has an oil that can give relief to tension headache in 15 minutes simply by wiping it on your forehead.

Peppermint oil is a fast-acting aspirin with no side effects. It is good for headaches and tennis (ringing in

## Preventing spread of germs in kitchens

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY for Microbiology, Inc. has affirmed findings that the new Joy Antibacterial (AB) dishwashing liquid killed 99.9 percent of germs on a sponge upon a review of tests conducted by the Pasteur Institute Laboratory in Paris.

The PSM is composed of microbiologists from the academe seeking to promote scientific knowledge and stimulate scientific investigation and advancement in the frontiers of microbiology.

Aside from showing that Joy AB was effective against bacteria, the

tests also showed that the product could help control the build-up of bacteria in dishwashing tools.

Studies reveal that more disease-causing bacteria can be found in the kitchen than in any other part of the house.

Many food-borne diseases in the Philippines are caused by germ cross-contamination or the transfer of bacteria from one source to another person or object in kitchens.

Dishwashing implements like the sponge are convenient breeding grounds for germs because of a combination of dirt, food particles and moisture that promote the growth and increase of microorganisms. They may spread disease-causing bacteria easily onto plates,

utensils and glasses with every swipe.

The PSM said germ cross-contamination, especially in the kitchen, could be reduced to less dangerous levels.

The organization expressed support for the use of antibacterial dishwashing cleaners like Joy Antibacterial dishwashing liquid, the only one accepted by the PSM as scientifically proven to remove and kill 99.9 percent of germs on the sponge during and in-between dishwashing.

Using Joy Antibacterial liquid is a practical precaution Filipino consumers can take to help reduce bacterial levels in dishwashing implements.

| ClickTheCity.com    |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Channel             | 2:30PM                              | 3:00PM          | 3:30PM                       | 4:00PM               | 4:30PM | 5:00PM  | 5:30PM                         | 6:00PM               | 6:30PM                | 7:00PM          | 7:30PM                      | 8:00PM      | 8:30PM             | 9:00PM                 | 9:30PM           |
| NBN                 |                                     | Value Vision    |                              | New Life TV Shopping |        | Teleday | Dyes Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sa? Nanto | Ting ng Bayan (Live) |                       |                 |                             | Teleday     |                    |                        |                  |
| ABS-CBN 2           | Kapamilya Cinema                    |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      | Metro Garden Season 2 | TV Patrol World | Mga Anghel Na Waring Langit | Veinam Rose | Kampanerang Kubang | Itaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin | Pino Big Brother |
| ABC 5               |                                     |                 | EZ Shop                      |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| GMA 7               | Kung Mamanahin Mo Lang Ako          | Now and Forever |                              | 12 Kingdoms          |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| RPN 9               |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| IBC 13              |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| SBN 21              |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Studio 23           |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| MTV Philippines     | MTV Screen                          | The 70's House  | MTV Pop Inc.                 |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| MYX                 | Star MYX                            | Urban MYX       | Rock MYX                     | CPM MYX              |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| CNN                 |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| ESPN                |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Solar Sports        |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Sports Plus         |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Cinemax             | Curse Of The Werewolf               |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Hallmark Channel    | Beautified                          | Regenesis       |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Disney Channel      | Mr. Bean The Animated Series        | Totally Spies   | At Attack/Interruption Bumpy |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Discovery Channel   |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| National Geographic |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Cartoon Network     | Yogi Bear Show                      |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Nickelodeon         | Blue Clues/What Pencil Are You From |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Lifestyle Network   |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Star World          | Booker                              |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| AXN                 |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| JackTV              | Family Guy                          |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| ETC                 |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| HBO                 |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Star Movies         |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| Cinema One          |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |
| EWTN                |                                     |                 |                              |                      |        |         |                                |                      |                       |                 |                             |             |                    |                        |                  |

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Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat  
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes

Ating kabalitaan  
Cheri Mercado

Dito lang sa

